

# TOURNAMENT REVIEW



UEFA  
**FUTSAL  
EURO**  
SLOVENIA 2018





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## 'An unforgettable tournament'

Before UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 got under way, I expressed the view that the tournament would set new standards for this flourishing sport. I am pleased to say that my confidence was totally justified.

Over 12 memorable days at the impressive Arena Stožice in the Slovenian capital Ljubljana, we saw just how far futsal has come, in terms of the quality of the action and as a popular spectator attraction.

In the end, Portugal emerged victorious in a gripping final against Spain to claim their first ever European futsal title, and I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Portuguese Football Federation and its fine team on the outstanding achievement of joining the country's football team as reigning European champions. Congratulations also to Portugal's Ricardinho on becoming the finals' all-time leading goalscorer with 22 goals in total. His goals were crucial to his team's success.

The Slovenian public turned out in impressive numbers. The Football Association of Slovenia were excellent hosts, and can be immensely proud that the finals attracted just over 100,000 fans in total – including a sell-out crowd for the final.

The EURO in Slovenia signalled the end of an era and heralds the start of an exciting new adventure. The final tournament will now be played every four years, starting in 2022, and the field for the finals will be increased from 12 to 16. Futsal's profile will be enhanced considerably as a result. The unforgettable tournament in my home country took the sport a huge step forward. Now, we can look forward to even more new benchmarks being set as the UEFA Futsal EURO enters an exciting new age.

**ALEKSANDER ČEFERIN**  
UEFA President



Aleksander Čeferin (left) meets Radenko Mijatović



## Enjoying the futsal vibe

It was a real satisfaction to see UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 become such a big success and receive such a warm reception in Slovenia. The tournament was an enigma before the start, but, thanks to the efforts of UEFA and the local organising committee, we managed to bring the sport closer to the people and showed them it's a dynamic and attractive discipline that requires a different set of skills to football. In the end, I am sure that everybody who came to the Arena Stožice went home with a positive feeling and the desire to return. People got a taste of what to expect in December when Portugal played a friendly against Slovenia at the Arena, and that won them the affection of Slovenian fans, who helped them all the way to the end. Supporters got behind the biggest stars and masters of skills like Ricardinho, Hiquita, Douglas and Miguelín, and the atmosphere in the Arena was quite special, which is something even the players felt. I am proud that people got to experience the futsal vibe and I hope that everybody enjoyed their stay in Slovenia. We would not have been able to do it all without the opportunity granted to us by UEFA and their guidance, for which we are very thankful.

**RADENKO MIJATOVIĆ**  
Football Association  
of Slovenia President



# Technical report

# Tactics and trends

This technical report aims to provide insight and spark debate



The event hosted by Slovenia was the fifth and last final tournament to involve a dozen teams. It also ended a cycle embracing two decades during which final tournaments had been staged on a biennial basis, with one anecdotal exception when the switch from November to January starting dates generated a gap between 2007 and 2010. The introduction of a four-

year interval, allied with an expansion to 16 finalists, had already been written into international futsal calendars when the ball started rolling in Ljubljana. The technical report on the final tournament of the tenth official UEFA European Futsal Championship provides a permanent record of the 20 matches played at the Arena Stožice in the Slovenian capital. In addition to factual

and statistical information, the report is based on the observations and analysis provided by UEFA's two technical observers. In Slovenia, UEFA's technical team was formed by two former national team coaches with extensive experience accumulated at EUROs and FIFA World Cups, Javier Lozano and Orlando Duarte. The observations and data that appear in this review have a similar objective

– to stimulate development by offering analysis, reflections and debating points and, by highlighting trends at the peak of the European futsal pyramid, providing coaches at senior and development levels with information that may be helpful when working on the qualities required by the players and coaches who will play leading roles in shaping the future of futsal in Europe.



## UEFA TECHNICAL OBSERVERS

### JAVIER LOZANO

Javier Lozano had previously acted as UEFA technical observer at the 2010, 2012, 2014 and 2016 final tournaments. His passion for futsal dates back to the early 1980s, and he made the transition from player to coach at 31, taking the helm of Caja Toledo and Madrid-based Inter FS. In 1992, he was invited to become head coach of the Spanish national team – and led them to victory in the first European Tournament staged under UEFA auspices in Cordoba in 1996. It was the first of a rich collection of gold medals, as he subsequently led Spain to victory in the 2000 and 2004 FIFA World Cups and the 2001 and 2005 European Championships. He handed the baton to José Venancio López in 2007 to take a post in football with Real Madrid CF, initially in the first-team dressing room and then as director of player development, before returning to futsal to assume his current role as president of Spain's professional futsal league.

### ORLANDO DUARTE

Orlando Duarte, having embarked on his futsal coaching career in 1987, made his mark as head coach of Sporting Clube de Portugal in his home city of Lisbon, a post he held for ten years. In the meantime, he had become a member of the Portuguese national association's futsal coaching staff. Taking over as head coach, he led Portugal to a bronze medal at the 2000 FIFA World Cup in Guatemala – a competition won by Lozano's Spain. Like Javier, he led his country through the pioneering years of the UEFA European Futsal Championship, missing out on only one final tournament between 1999 and 2010, when he handed the baton to his assistant, Jorge Braz. After a second spell at Sporting Clube, Duarte headed for Latvia to take up his current post at FK Nikars Riga, engaging in a wide-ranging project aimed at developing futsal in the Baltic country.

# Road to the final

Close encounters, tight defences and an increasingly even playing field were the hallmarks of a compelling tournament

"Nowadays there is definitely more equality. There are no longer any easy opponents." Russia coach Sergei Skorovich concisely summarised a group stage in which five of the dozen matches were drawn, with Italy, Russia and Spain – the only three countries to have lifted the European futsal crown – accumulating a joint total of nine goals at a miserly average of 1.5 per game. At the same juncture of the previous final tournament, their total had stood at 23. Despite failure to attain attacking benchmarks, Russia and defending champions Spain edged into the quarter-finals. The major surprise was that Italy, title winners in 2014, did not.

## GROUP A ITALY TUMBLE OUT

The first appearance by Roberto Menichelli's team was against Serbia who, despite suspensions to goalkeeper Miodrag Aksentijević and the influential Marko Perić, had frustrated the hosts by fighting back from a 2-0 deficit and equalising through Dragan Tomić turning in a long-range shot from flying goalkeeper Mladen Kocić with 29 seconds left on the clock. Italy, despite disturbing Serbian possession play with a high-pressing 1-1-1-2 set-up and despite testing Aksentijević to the limit, could manage no more than a 1-1 draw – thanks to a kick-in on the left just over two minutes after a free-kick and a rebound had allowed Serbia to take the lead.

The two draws created a level playing field on which Slovenia and Italy could battle for supremacy while Serbia, with two points in the bag, watched impotently from the sidelines. A capacity crowd was witness to a



Eder Lima fires at goal against Poland



Slovenia beat Italy 2-1 to knock out the 2014 champions

gladiatorial contest punctuated by eight yellow cards and the dismissal of a member of the Italian bench.

At half-time, rationality hinted at disappointment for the hosts. Italy's high pressure generated rapid ball recoveries amid a flattish individual marking system adopted by Slovenia with captain Igor Osredkar shadowing Italy's main creative spirit, Merlim. Ball-winning was followed by intelligent use of the wide areas, defence-splitting diagonal passing and a constant peppering of Damir Puškar in the Slovenian goal, only for the latter to produce some superlative shot-stopping. Italy's only reward was an early goal when lack of pressure on ball carriers allowed Marco Ercolessi to feed the ball into the path of an infield run by Humberto Honorio.

The wind changed direction after the break. The hosts shook their way out of the Italian stranglehold by pressing more aggressively and, with a pivot receiving and shielding (notably Matej Fideršek), fabricated more solid options for a reply. It came just after the half-hour when Osredkar appeared unmarked at the far post to convert a cross from the left. Then, with 65 seconds on the clock and Italy probing desperately with the flying goalkeeper, Murilo was caught in possession by Osredkar, who ran the length of the pitch to tap in the winner that sent Italy home.

## GROUP B KAZAKHSTAN ON TOP

Russia suffered similar, albeit less terminal, frustration. It took 35 minutes to find a path to the net through a Poland team that competed collectively and unstintingly, probing with direct passes to the pivot or fast counters after regains. Recompense arrived with nine seconds remaining – a lapse of concentration allowing Michał Kubik to equalise during the final raid with a flying goalkeeper. Two days later, Polish resources struggled to cope with Kazakhstan's fluent combinations. Four first-half goals and a final 5-1 scoreline put Cacau's team in the Group B driving seat – and they stayed there by coming back to draw 1-1 with the goal-shy Russians and claim top spot, while their opponents crept into the last eight without winning a game.

## GROUP C PORTUGAL IMPRESS

Group C was alone in not featuring a draw. And Portugal were alone in winning their two group games. Romania mirrored their 1-4-0 attacking structure but struggled to match the fluent combinations and rapid rotations of their opponents. Although technically gifted, Robert Lupu's team found it difficult to mix purpose with possession and extensive use of the flying goalkeeper led to the surrender of two goals in a 4-1 defeat. Lupu then made even more extensive use of the flying keeper against Ukraine – even when 1-0 and 2-1 ahead. The ploy became a poisoned chalice when, with 19 seconds remaining, Ukraine grabbed possession and won 3-2 with a fast counter. This converted the Ukraine v Portugal encounter into a jostle for first place. The young Ukrainians, unsettled by Portugal's high-pressure combination play, reacted impressively after a 2-0 first-half deficit but had few complaints about a 5-3 defeat.

## GROUP D HOLDERS ADVANCE

Debutants France breathed fresh air into Group D. Pierre Jacky's part-timers, uninhibited against the defending champions, defended deep in 1-1-2-1 formation and countered at breakneck speed. Capitalising on Spain's imprecisions, they held the upper hand throughout a match bizarrely marked by interceptions and own goals. Ultimately, José Venancio López's team were thankful to recover from 4-2 down thanks to a deflected corner and, just over two minutes from time, an equaliser by flying goalkeeper Bebe.

Two days later, concentration at set plays became an issue. France conceded from two corners, a free-kick and, to rub salt into wounds, a corner in their favour, which paved the way for the counterattack that gave Azerbaijan a 3-2 advantage. The 5-3 defeat made France the second-highest scorers of the group phase. Mathematical elimination remained pending until the final whistle of the tense 1-0 victory against Azerbaijan that allowed Spain to claim the last quarter-final place at the end of an intensely competitive group stage.



Ukraine's Taras Korolyshyn kneels to celebrate scoring against Portugal (left); Spain's Solano and Azerbaijan's Vassoura tussle for the ball

## RICARDINHO'S BOX OF TRICKS CONJURED IMPRESSIVE DISPLAYS FROM HIS TEAM-MATES, AND THE FOUR GOALS THAT MADE HIM THE EURO'S ALL-TIME TOP SCORER

## QUARTER-FINALS PORTUGAL 8-1 AZERBAIJAN

Like the snowfalls that cast a thick blanket over Ljubljana, the action was relentless. Within 24 hours, the curtain had risen on the knockout stage where one match stood out like a sore thumb. Very sore if you happened to be a supporter of Azerbaijan. No fewer than 56% of the quarter-final goals were scored in Portugal's 8-1 demolition of Alesio's team who had, nonetheless, taken the lead within 54 seconds. The early joy was followed by 39 minutes of torment as Ricardinho's box of tricks conjured impressive performances from team-mates such as Bruno Coelho and Pedro Cary, in addition to the four goals that made him the Futsal EURO's all-time top scorer. Already trailing 4-1, Alesio started to inject the flying goalkeeper seven minutes before the interval. But ten spells of power play allowed Portugal to score three more goals on the break and, with almost nine minutes remaining, Alesio reverted to normality with the final result of 8-1 already on the scoreboard.

## SERBIA 1-3 KAZAKHSTAN

The other three quarter-finals could hardly have offered a starker contrast. A rebound after a free-kick allowed Kazakhstan to take an early lead against Serbia and a fast break permitted Taynan to double the tally two minutes into the second period. But the second appearance of Mladen Kocić in the flying goalkeeper shirt created a goal for Slobodan Rajčević that set fire to the final minutes – only for, with 23 seconds remaining, Douglas Junior to intercept a pass and race away to put the result beyond doubt.



Ricardinho struck four times against Azerbaijan



Douglas Junior comes close against Serbia

## SLOVENIA 0-2 RUSSIA

Despite waves of enthusiasm generated by a sell-out crowd, the hosts' story had a similarly unhappy ending. Even with Rok Mordej suspended, Andrej Dobovičnik used only seven of 11 available outfielders against Russia and, ultimately, they were unable to bear such a heavy workload against the athletic Russians. Unstinting efforts and some outstanding goalkeeping by Damir Puškar preserved the stalemate for just over 26 minutes until a counterattack through the middle by Ivan Chishkala allowed Eder Lima, drifting left to make space, to fire high into the Slovenia net. After more than ten minutes of fruitless power play and with only 24 seconds on the clock, the killer blow was delivered when a long pass from the Russia goalkeeper to Sergei Abramov ended with Robinho making it 2-0 from close range.

## UKRAINE 0-1 SPAIN

Spain's edgy, tense defence of the title continued against disciplined, hard-working Ukraine. Despite adding tempo and fluency to their approach play, finishing was wayward and, on the occasions when it was well directed, Yevgen Ivanyak displayed his shot-stopping competence. The deadlock held until three minutes before the break when Pola's spectacular long-range missile hit the target. With Spain unable to translate domination into goals and with Ukraine more adept at containment than at threatening the Spanish goal, even ten final minutes punctuated by six spells of Ukrainian power play failed to change the scoreline. Spain, despite their uncharacteristic paucity of goals, completed the semi-final line-up.

## SEMI-FINALS RUSSIA 2-3 PORTUGAL

The two semi-finals distilled the spirit of futsal into 90 minutes of high drama, ending with sudden death in a penalty shoot-out. Russia, cleverly set up to throw a wet blanket over Portuguese panache, immediately took the upper hand, with Eder Lima creating discomfort among the Portugal defenders with his back-to-goal expertise, Robinho orchestrating attacks and Chishkala catalysing end-to-end play. First-half dominance, however, produced only one goal – Lima supplying the coup de grâce after a ball-loss by Pedro Cary had set up a fast counter. With Russia's defensive covering keeping the lid on Ricardinho's

box of tricks, Portugal needed a long-range strike from André Coelho to redress the balance when the clock had just ticked past the half-hour mark. With just over four minutes remaining, the same player, finding space to receive a corner on the right, delivered a second blow to put his team ahead.

Skorovich waited until two minutes from time to send on Sergei Abramov as flying goalkeeper and, 59 seconds later, Portugal goalkeeper André Sousa, scurrying back after a sortie from his area, made two attempts to grab the ball. It fell to Bruno Coelho, who dispatched a long-range shot into the unguarded Russia net. There was still time for Lima to heighten the drama with a second goal but Portugal hung on to edge into the final.



Pola's goal made the difference against Ukraine



Sergei Abramov fires at goal against Kazakhstan in the third-place match

## KAZAKHSTAN 5-5 SPAIN

AET; SPAIN WIN 3-1 ON PENALTIES

In the second semi-final, Kazakhstan earned support from the crowd for their spirited performance as underdogs against the defending champions in a roller-coaster ten-goal contest. With Douglas Junior conducting the orchestra, a counter allowed Taynan to put Kazakhstan ahead, only for two set plays (a corner and a kick-in) to give Spain a 2-1 half-time advantage. That was overturned in 45 seconds early in the second half thanks to a long-range shot (by goalkeeper Higueta from midfield) and a slick combination. Back came Spain. Firstly through Joselito after a kick-in on the right; then by Pola after a ball-loss by Dauren Nurgozhin. With 79 seconds to play, the ubiquitous Douglas made it 4-4 after a corner on the left. And so to extra time.

A fierce shot by Miguelín put Spain ahead again; only for another neat combination to allow Serik Zhamankoulov to tap in at the far post. The 50-minute see-saw had ended evenly balanced at 5-5. With clocks ticking towards midnight, it was

down to a penalty shoot-out. Spain goalkeeper Paco Sedano, with bruising to show for it, made the decisive contribution by blocking Taynan's spot kick, while Higueta could do nothing about the strikes by Miguelín, Carlos Ortiz and Lin that gave Spain a 3-1 victory and a place in the final at the expense of their valiant opponents.

## THIRD-PLACE MATCH RUSSIA 1-0 KAZAKHSTAN

That left Kazakhstan to take on Russia for the bronze medal. An end-to-end spectacle allowed Higueta and Georgi Zamtaradze to showcase their goalkeeping skills – their shot-stopping prowess contributing to a paradoxical balance of 96 goal attempts and 1-0 to Russia on the scoreboard. Ironically, the goal came when Higueta had moved to the right to switch into flying goalkeeper mode, only for Douglas Junior to be pressurised into conceding a corner. Rapid delivery of the set play, while Higueta was scurrying back into position, allowed Eder Lima to earn his team the bronze medal.

## LEADING SCORERS

7 Ricardinho (POR)

6 Bruno Coelho (POR)

5 Eder Lima (RUS)

4 Douglas Junior (KAZ)

4 Pedro Cary (POR)

# Portugal celebrate at last

Courage, conviction and creativity finally brought Jorge Braz's team their deserved reward

"It was a very evenly balanced final between two teams who defended high and put intense pressure on the ball," commented UEFA technical observer Javier Lozano. "Both teams' attacking play was based on high levels of ball possession. And, apart from having similar team characteristics, the coaches knew each other extremely well."

But one of the truths of futsal is that team talks, game plans and tactical expertise can be undermined in a matter of seconds. A massive crowd of 10,352 had barely settled into their seats when the delicately balanced contest was tilted in favour of Portugal. The intense high pressure exerted by Jorge Braz's team paid an early dividend when Spain's playmaker Miquelín was persuaded to surrender possession in front of his own goal. Spanish supporters would have wished for the loose ball to fall to a player with less experience, skill and aplomb than Ricardinho. It was the Portuguese captain, however, who was in the right place at the right time to calmly clip the ball past Paco Sedano and give his team a one-goal advantage after only 59 seconds.

In futsal, to concede an early goal is not necessarily disastrous. The significance of scoring it, on the other hand, fuelled Portugal's confidence and self-belief – mental factors that had arguably undermined big-match

performance levels in previous tournaments. In Slovenia, Portugal had consistently played with courage and conviction. And these qualities persuaded them they could take the game to the defending champions in uninhibited fashion. Adhering to their 1-4-0 attacking structure with only occasional uses of a pivot, Portugal were able to disrupt Spanish construction work with three-man or two-man pressing of extraordinary intensity. It was so intense that they reached the five-foul mark in both halves of the contest – most of the infractions taking place in Spanish territory.

The result was an opening spell marked by uncharacteristic imprecisions in Spain's normally fluent combination play and a hesitant edginess possibly generated by the draw with France, two 1-0 wins and one penalty shoot-out victory along a rocky path to the final. When Venancio López called a time-out with just over six minutes of the first half remaining, it was to deliver, in vociferous fashion, advice on how to break free of Portugal's tactical tentacles. Francisco Solano, who had watched the semi-final against Kazakhstan from the bench, began to appear regularly on court as an alternative to Alex at the apex of the attack and, by dropping wide, opened up diagonal passing lines that gave Spain more valid options



Pedro Cary, Nilson Miguel and Bruno Coelho celebrate the latter's winning goal in the final

## WHEN THE HOOTER SOUNDED, PORTUGAL ENDED YEARS OF FRUSTRATION WITH SCENES OF UNBRIDLED JUBILATION

when playing out from the back.

At the same time, the Portuguese subconscious was being tempted to prioritise the defence of their advantage. Ricardinho, facing up to so many opponents who were team-mates in the Spanish league, was content to catalyse from deep positions rather than play as leading sword in the cut-and-thrust. Gradually, Spain began to play their way into the game, even though Portugal were adopting similar defensive measures to subdue Miguélín, Spain's playmaking equivalent to Ricardinho. With their rapid recoveries of possession curtailed, Portugal showed symptoms of discomfort when deprived of the ball for longer segments of play.

However, Spain were made to wait until 66 seconds before the interval to restore equality. A slick combination on the left ended with Marc Tolrà beating André Sousa in almost impudent manner to send the teams in at the interval with 1-1 on the scoreboard.

The pendulum seemed to have swung in Spain's favour – especially after the excellent Bruno Coelho had limped out of the fray. His reappearance in the second half was to emerge as a decisive factor as the final chapters of the tale unfolded.

But Spain started the second half as they had finished the first. Solano's back-to-goal play gave depth to their attacking. Lin and Pola continually posed problems – and the latter shot high when a stumble on the ball by Tiago Brito sent him 1v1 on Sousa. But it was a set play that edged Spain

Portugal celebrate their triumph



Carlos Ortiz looks to keep Ricardinho in check

## Portugal 3-2 Spain (aet)

| MATCH STATISTICS |                     |    |
|------------------|---------------------|----|
| 3                | GOALS               | 2  |
| 49               | TOTAL ATTEMPTS      | 56 |
| 12               | ATTEMPTS ON TARGET  | 13 |
| 17               | ATTEMPTS OFF TARGET | 20 |
| 20               | BLOCKED             | 23 |
| 14               | CORNERS             | 12 |
| 1                | YELLOW CARDS        | 1  |
| 0                | RED CARDS           | 0  |

ahead – a free-kick by Miguélín met by Lin, unmarked at the far post. Hence the first appearance of Pedro Cary as flying goalkeeper after 36'49". And his second appearance 51 seconds later brought Portugal back from the brink, with a neat high-tempo circulation culminating in Bruno Coelho hooking the ball home with 102 seconds remaining.

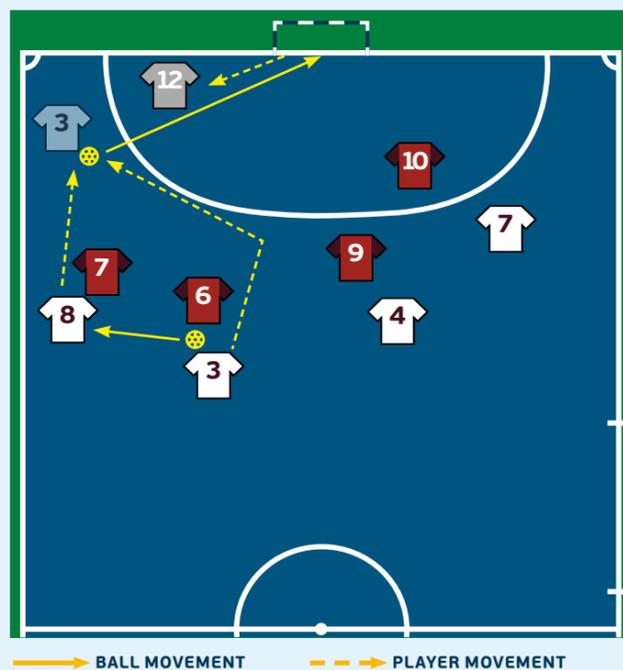
At this juncture, Portugal became intoxicated by the scent of victory – to the extent that Braz was obliged to restrain Cary as he attempted to race on again as the flying keeper. As the final stretched into extra time, another figure on the scoreboard gained greater relevance. A sixth foul by Portugal afforded Miguélín a chance from the ten-metre mark. Braz changed his keeper, sending on Vítor Hugo for a brief cameo in which he made no contact with the ball; but the spot kick thumped against the junction between post and crossbar.

Spain paid a high price for committing three fouls in succession. Solano's foul on Cary allowed Bruno Coelho to fire a ten-metre penalty low past Paco Sedano into the Spanish net to put Portugal 3-2 up with 55 seconds remaining. With 14 to go, Bebe struck the Portugal post in a frenzied finish. But when the hooter sounded, Portugal ended years of frustration with scenes of unbridled jubilation. As Ricardinho, injured during extra time, hobbled up to lift the trophy amid a standing ovation, Portugal had finally donned the European crown.

### HIGH AND WIDE

#### TOLRÀ'S EQUALISING GOAL FOR SPAIN

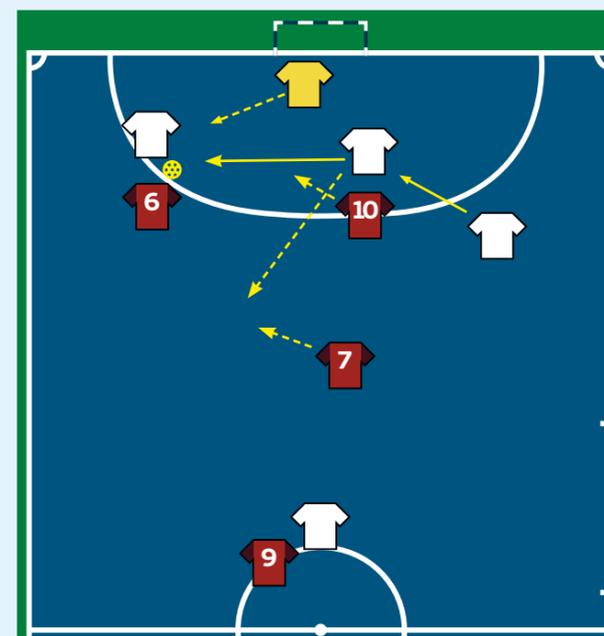
Spain equalise in the final with a 1-4-0 positional attack that catches the Portugal defence more open than usual. The 2-2 split in the wide areas creates space on the left flank. The ball is immediately played to this side in order to exploit it. Marc Tolrà makes a run that gives him an advantage over Pedro Cary, allows him to receive the vertical pass from Lin and, with a subtle outside-of-the-foot touch, beat the onrushing André Sousa.



### MOBILE MARKERS

#### PORTUGAL'S DEFENSIVE LINES

When defending high, well-drilled marking movements are essential. Against Spain in the final, Portugal pressed high in, usually, 1-1-1-2 formation. The diagram indicates the defensive movement adopted when one of the opponents makes a lateral pass and immediately sets off on a diagonal upfield run. His marker, instead of making a turn to pursue him, allows him to pass and hands him over to the player in the second line of defence, thus maintaining a rational defensive structure.



# Results and standings

## GROUP A

|                 | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| <b>Slovenia</b> | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 4   |
| <b>Serbia</b>   | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | 2   |
| Italy           | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1   |

## GROUP B

|                   | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| <b>Kazakhstan</b> | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 4   |
| <b>Russia</b>     | 2 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2   |
| Poland            | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 6 | 1   |

## GROUP C

|                 | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| <b>Portugal</b> | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 9 | 4 | 6   |
| <b>Ukraine</b>  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 7 | 3   |
| Romania         | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 7 | 0   |

## GROUP D

|                   | P | W | D | L | F | A | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-----|
| <b>Spain</b>      | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 4 | 4   |
| <b>Azerbaijan</b> | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 4 | 3   |
| France            | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 9 | 1   |

### SLOVENIA 2-2 SERBIA

30 JANUARY 2018

**SLOVENIA (STARTING FIVE):** Puškar, R Mordej, Čujec, Osredkar, Vrhovec  
**SERBIA:** Momčilović, Rakić, Kocić, Simić, Rajčević  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Fetić 3:42, 2-0 Vrhovec 14:20, 2-1 Ramić 17:03, 2-2 Tomić 39:32  
**YELLOW CARDS:** R Mordej 27:15, Totošković 37:29 (SVN); Momčilović 38:33, Tomić 38:33 (SRB)  
**REFEREES:** Sorescu, Fernandes Coelho **TO:** Martinez Flores **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 10,212

### SERBIA 1-1 ITALY

1 FEBRUARY 2018

**SERBIA:** Aksentijević, Perić, Kocić, Simić, Rajčević  
**ITALY:** Mammarella, Gabriel Lima, Romano, Honorio, Murilo  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Tomić 29:24, 1-1 De Luca 31:42  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Radovanović 24:18, Milosavac 28:37, Kocić 38:55 (SRB); Honorio 22:11, Ercolessi 24:10 (ITA)  
**REFEREES:** Birkett, Četin **TO:** Onatsu **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 3,527

### ITALY 1-2 SLOVENIA

3 FEBRUARY 2018

**ITALY:** Mammarella, Ercolessi, Fortino, Honorio, Alex Merlim  
**SLOVENIA:** Puškar, R Mordej, Čujec, Osredkar, Fetić  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Honorio 3:17, 1-1 Osredkar 30:27, 1-2 Osredkar 38:55  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Ercolessi 09:34, Alex Merlim 22:08, Romano 26:50, Calderoli 39:59 (ITA); Čeh 26:50, Fideršek 29:36, Vrhovec 33:32, R Modrej 39:59 (SVN)  
**REFEREES:** Cordero Gallardo, Martinez Flores **TO:** Pelissier **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 10,342



Dragan Tomić (No7) is on target for Serbia against Italy



Russia veteran Robinho

### RUSSIA 1-1 POLAND

30 JANUARY 2018

**RUSSIA:** Zamtaradze, Eder Lima, Robinho, Davydov, Chishkala  
**POLAND:** Kałuża, Zastawnik, Lutecki, Mikołajewicz, Popławski  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Chishkala 35:10, 1-1 Kubik 39:51  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Gladczak 26:13, Kubik 38:04, Kałuża 39:51 (POL)  
**REFEREES:** Onatsu, Pelissier **TO:** Birkett **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 3,192

### POLAND 1-5 KAZAKHSTAN

1 FEBRUARY 2018

**POLAND:** Kałuża, Zastawnik, Lutecki, Mikołajewicz, Popławski  
**KAZAKHSTAN:** Higueta, Dovgan, Yesenamanov, Douglas Junior, Nurgozhin  
**GOALS:** 0-1 Taynan 2:54, 0-2 Orazov 8:56, 0-3 Zhamankulov 19:01, 0-4 Pershin (2P) 19:32, 1-4 Solecki 27:56, 1-5 Douglas Junior 36:41  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Zastawnik 16:57 (POL); Douglas Junior 8:27 (KAZ)  
**REFEREES:** Martinez Flores, Cordero Gallardo **TO:** Sorescu **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 1,930

### KAZAKHSTAN 1-1 RUSSIA

3 FEBRUARY 2018

**KAZAKHSTAN:** Higueta, Dovgan, Yesenamanov, Douglas Junior, Nurgozhin  
**RUSSIA:** Putilov, Milovanov, Eder Lima, Niyazov, Davydov  
**GOALS:** 0-1 Eder Lima 1:45, 1-1 Douglas Junior 23:25  
**CARDS:** None  
**REFEREES:** Kovács, Farkas **TO:** Tomić **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 7,018

### PORTUGAL 4-1 ROMANIA

31 JANUARY 2018

**PORTUGAL:** Bebe, Pedro Cary, Bruno Coelho, João Matos, Ricardinho  
**ROMANIA:** Tonița, F Matei, Ignat, Savio Valadares, Paulo Ferreira  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Pedro Cary 3:48, 2-0 Fábio Cecílio 18:46, 2-1 Stoica 33:21, 3-1 Ricardinho 35:29, 4-1 Bruno Coelho 37:00  
**YELLOW CARD:** Tunha 26:20 (POR)  
**REFEREES:** Tomić, Černý **TO:** Zahovič **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 3,093

### ROMANIA 2-3 UKRAINE

2 FEBRUARY 2018

**ROMANIA:** Tonița, F Matei, Ignat, Savio Valadares, Paulo Ferreira  
**UKRAINE:** Ivanyak, Razuvanov, Mykola Grytsyna, Mykhailo Grytsyna, Shoturma  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Savio Valadares 4:57, 2-0 Ignat 10:33, 2-1 Korolyshyn 19:27, 2-2 Padiash 27:50, 2-3 Shoturma 39:41  
**YELLOW CARDS:** F Matei 26:21, A Csoma 29:13, Panzaru 33:47 (ROU); Ivanyak 08:07, Bilotserkivets 16:21, Korolyshyn 21:54, Khamdamov 35:21 (UKR)  
**REFEREES:** Zahovič, Kadykov **TO:** Farkas **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 796

### UKRAINE 3-5 PORTUGAL

4 FEBRUARY 2018

**UKRAINE:** Ivanyak, Mykola Grytsyna, Zhurba, Mykhailo Grytsyna, Bilotserkivets  
**PORTUGAL:** André Sousa, Pedro Cary, Bruno Coelho, João Matos, Ricardinho  
**GOALS:** 0-1 Bruno Coelho 2:18, 0-2 Tiago Brito 12:22, 1-2 Razuvanov 28:00, 2-2 Korolyshyn 31:59, 2-3 Pedro Cary 33:13, 2-4 Nilson Miguel 35:30, 2-5 Ricardinho 36:16, 3-5 Shoturma 39:44  
**YELLOW CARD:** Fábio Cecílio 24:42 (POR)  
**REFEREES:** Pelissier, Onatsu **TO:** Kovács **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 4,411



Ricardinho's remarkable rabona leaves Romania stranded



Abdessamad Mohammed stuns Spain with an early goal for France

### SPAIN 4-4 FRANCE

31 JANUARY 2018

**SPAIN:** Paco Sedano, Ortiz, Pola, Rafa Usín, Joselito  
**FRANCE:** Haroun, Ramirez, Aigoun, A Mohammed, Mouhoudine  
**GOALS:** 0-1 A Mohammed 8:37, 1-1 Adolfo 10:37, 1-2 Alla 16:20, 2-2 Aigoun (og) 19:30, 2-3 Mouhoudine 20:13, 2-4 Ortiz (og) 26:13, 3-4 Solano 26:48, 4-4 Bebe 37:42  
**YELLOW CARD:** Bebe 39:45 (ESP)  
**REFEREES:** Farkas, Kovács **TO:** Galante **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 2,060

### FRANCE 3-5 AZERBAIJAN

2 FEBRUARY 2018

**FRANCE:** Haroun, Ramirez, Aigoun, A Mohammed, Mouhoudine  
**AZERBAIJAN:** Huseynli, Bolinha, Fineo, Eduardo, Everton Cardoso  
**GOALS:** 0-1 Bolinha 2:26, 1-1 N'Gala 6:59, 2-1 A Mohammed 20:05, 2-2 Bolinha 22:02, 2-3 Bolinha 23:30, 2-4 Everton Cardoso 28:56, 2-5 Eduardo 37:09, 3-5 Mouhoudine 39:33  
**YELLOW CARD:** A Mohammed 39:51 (FRA)  
**REFEREES:** Galante, Malfer **TO:** Černý **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 912

### AZERBAIJAN 0-1 SPAIN

4 FEBRUARY 2018

**AZERBAIJAN:** Huseynli, Bolinha, Fineo, Eduardo, Farzaliyev  
**SPAIN:** Paco Sedano, Ortiz, Pola, Miguelín, Alex  
**GOAL:** 0-1 Pola 13:21  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Vassoura 23:53, Fineo 36:42 (AZE)  
**REFEREES:** Kadykov, Zahovič **TO:** Malfer **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 3,076

## QUARTER-FINALS

## SERBIA 1-3 KAZAKHSTAN 5 FEBRUARY 2018

**SERBIA:** Aksentijević, Perić, Kocić, Simić, Rajčević  
**KAZAKHSTAN:** Higuita, Dovgan, Yesenamanov, Douglas Junior, Nurgozhin  
**GOALS:** 0-1 Zhamankulov 6:07, 0-2 Taynan 22:17, 1-2 Rajčević 35:24, 1-3 Douglas Junior 39:37  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Perić 6:04, Aksentijević 22:17 (SRB); Taynan 25:24 (KAZ)  
**REFEREES:** Četin, Birkett **TO:** Kadykov **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 5,246

## SLOVENIA 0-2 RUSSIA 5 FEBRUARY 2018

**SLOVENIA:** Puškar, Totošković, Osredkar, Vrhovec, Fideršek  
**RUSSIA:** Zamtaradze, Romulo, Eder Lima, Davydov, Chishkala  
**GOALS:** 0-1 Eder Lima 26:12, 0-2 Robinho 39:36  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Osredkar 0:38, Vrhovec 25:30 (SVN); Eder Lima 25:30 (RUS)  
**REFEREES:** Fernandes Coelho, Sorescu **TO:** Cordero Gallardo **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 10,369

## PORTUGAL 8-1 AZERBAIJAN 6 FEBRUARY 2018

**PORTUGAL:** André Sousa, Pedro Cary, Bruno Coelho, João Matos, Ricardinho  
**AZERBAIJAN:** Huseynli, Bolinha, Fineo, Eduardo, Everton Cardoso  
**GOALS:** 0-1 Everton Cardoso 0:54, 1-1 Pedro Cary 2:05, 2-1 Pedro Cary 5:43, 3-1 Pany Varela 9:40, 4-1 Ricardinho 10:31, 5-1 Ricardinho 19:32, 6-1 Bruno Coelho 24:09, 7-1 Ricardinho 25:31, 8-1 Ricardinho 31:15  
**YELLOW CARD:** Baghirov 34:26 (AZE)  
**REFEREES:** Černý, Tomić **TO:** Četin **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 3,150

## UKRAINE 0-1 SPAIN 6 FEBRUARY 2018

**UKRAINE:** Ivanyak, Razuvanov, Korolyshyn, Zhurba, Shoturma  
**SPAIN:** Paco Sedano, Ortiz, Pola, Miquelín, Alex  
**GOAL:** 0-1 Pola 17:02  
**YELLOW CARD:** Zhurba 21:00 (UKR)  
**REFEREES:** Malfer, Galante **TO:** Fernandes Coelho **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 2,351

## MATCH OFFICIALS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Josip Barton</b><br>FYR MACEDONIA             | <b>Vladimir Kadykov</b><br>RUSSIA         |
| <b>Marc Birkett</b><br>ENGLAND                   | <b>Gábor Kovács</b><br>HUNGARY            |
| <b>Ondřej Černý</b><br>CZECH REPUBLIC            | <b>Alessandro Malfer</b><br>ITALY         |
| <b>Kamil Četin</b><br>TURKEY                     | <b>Alejandro Martinez Flores</b><br>SPAIN |
| <b>Vasilios Christodoulis</b><br>GREECE          | <b>Timo Onatsu</b><br>FINLAND             |
| <b>Juan José Cordero Gallardo</b><br>SPAIN       | <b>Cédric Pelissier</b><br>FRANCE         |
| <b>Balázs Farkas</b><br>HUNGARY                  | <b>Bogdan Sorescu</b><br>ROMANIA          |
| <b>Eduardo José Fernandes Coelho</b><br>PORTUGAL | <b>Saša Tomić</b><br>CROATIA              |
| <b>Angelo Galante</b><br>ITALY                   | <b>Admir Zahović</b><br>SLOVENIA          |

## SEMI-FINALS

## RUSSIA 2-3 PORTUGAL 8 FEBRUARY 2018

**RUSSIA:** Zamtaradze, Eder Lima, Robinho, Davydov, Chishkala  
**PORTUGAL:** André Sousa, Pedro Cary, Bruno Coelho, João Matos, Ricardinho  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Eder Lima 3:12, 1-1 André Coelho 30:03, 1-2 André Coelho 35:44, 1-3 Bruno Coelho 39:04, 2-3 Eder Lima 39:11  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Abramov 39:04, Robinho 39:04 (RUS); Tunha 21:32, Pany Varela 31:46 (POR)  
**REFEREES:** Kovács, Farkas **TO:** Cordero Gallardo **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 6,023

## KAZAKHSTAN 5-5 SPAIN 8 FEBRUARY 2018

aet; Spain win 3-1 on penalties

**KAZAKHSTAN:** Higuita, Taynan, Yesenamanov, Douglas Junior, Nurgozhin  
**SPAIN:** Paco Sedano, Ortiz, Pola, Miquelín, Alex  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Taynan 7:04, 1-1 Yesenamanov (og) 15:34, 1-2 Tolrà 18:42, 2-2 Higuita 24:14, 3-2 Taku 24:59, 3-3 Joselito 28:08, 3-4 Pola 33:01, 4-4 Douglas Junior 38:41, 4-5 Miquelín 42:27, 5-5 Zhamankulov 47:33  
**PENALTY SHOOT-OUT:** 0-1 Miquelín, 0-1 Taynan saved, 0-2 Ortiz, 1-2 Pershin, 1-3 Lin  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Taynan 5:40, Suleimenov 13:45, Douglas Junior 33:32, Higuita 36:07 (KAZ); Pola 13:45, Alex 19:13, Ortiz 24:09 (ESP)  
**REFEREES:** Sorescu, Malfer **TO:** Černý **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 5,657

## THIRD-PLACE PLAY-OFF



Russia took bronze by beating Kazakhstan

## RUSSIA 1-0 KAZAKHSTAN 10 FEBRUARY 2018

**RUSSIA:** Zamtaradze, Eder Lima, Robinho, Davydov, Chishkala  
**KAZAKHSTAN:** Higuita, Taynan, Dovgan, Yesenamanov, Douglas Junior  
**GOAL:** 1-0 Eder Lima 28:51  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Abramov 6:29, Romulo 18:10, Robinho 33:11 (RUS); Douglas Junior 15:18, 33:51 (KAZ)  
**RED CARD:** Douglas Junior 33:51 (KAZ)  
**REFEREES:** Cordero Gallardo, Martinez Flores **TO:** Sorescu **TK:** Christodoulis  
**ATTENDANCE:** 8,217



Ricardinho lifts the trophy

## FINAL

## PORTUGAL 3-2 SPAIN 10 FEBRUARY 2018

aet

**PORTUGAL:** André Sousa, Pedro Cary, Bruno Coelho, João Matos, Ricardinho  
**SPAIN:** Paco Sedano, Ortiz, Pola, Miquelín, Alex  
**GOALS:** 1-0 Ricardinho 0:59, 1-1 Tolrà 18:54, 1-2 Lin 31:36, 2-2 Bruno Coelho 38:18, 3-2 Bruno Coelho (2P) 49:05  
**YELLOW CARDS:** Nilson Miguel 31:35 (POR); Rafa Usín 46:12 (ESP)  
**REFEREES:** Černý, Tomić **TO:** Malfer **TK:** Barton  
**ATTENDANCE:** 10,352

# All-star cast

With Ricardinho taking centre stage, champions Portugal provided four of the 14 players in the technical observers' choice for the team of the tournament

A long list of candidates for the team of the tournament was gradually whittled down by technical observers Orlando Duarte and Javier Lozano and, after the final, they selected five starters from an all-star squad of 14 players. Here they highlight the qualities that earned each player their place in the squad, as well as the individual performance data for the top five starters.

## Starters

(FIGURES IN BRACKETS = AVERAGE PER GAME)

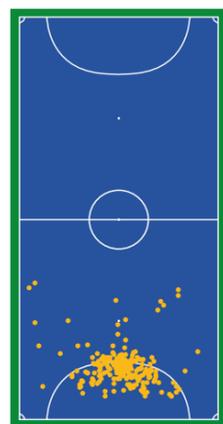
### GEORGI ZAMTARADZE RUSSIA



Consistent high-performer; good distribution with feet and excellent reflexes despite his height.



HEAT MAP



|             |           |                      |            |                 |       |                  |            |                       |          |
|-------------|-----------|----------------------|------------|-----------------|-------|------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------|
| GAMES       | 4         | MINUTES PLAYED       | 155 (38.8) | GOALS           | 0     | CONCEDED         | 3          | ASSISTS               | 0        |
| SHOTS FACED | 41 (10.3) | PASSES               | 161 (40.3) | SAVE PERCENTAGE | 90.2% | COMPLETED PASSES | 146 (36.5) | DANGEROUS SHOTS SAVED | 13 (3.3) |
|             |           | PASS COMPLETION RATE | 90.7%      |                 |       |                  |            |                       |          |

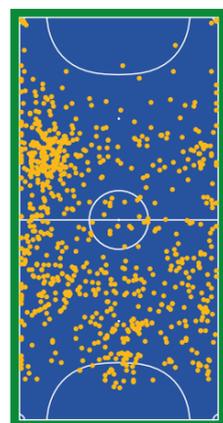
### DOUGLAS JUNIOR KAZAKHSTAN



Excellent defending; catalyst of team's attacking play; outstanding long-range shooting and work rate.



HEAT MAP



|            |          |                        |            |                 |          |                             |         |
|------------|----------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| GAMES      | 5        | MINUTES PLAYED         | 181 (36.2) | GOALS           | 4 (0.8)  | ASSISTS                     | 7 (1.4) |
| BALLS LOST | 28 (5.6) | BALLS LOST IN OWN HALF | 9 (1.8)    | BALLS RECOVERED | 41 (8.2) | BALLS RECOVERED IN OPP HALF | 5 (1)   |
| SHOTS      | 50 (10)  | SHOTS ON TARGET        | 18 (3.6)   |                 |          |                             |         |

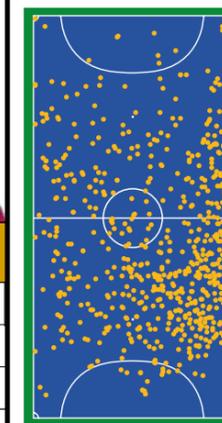
### RICARDINHO PORTUGAL



Exceptional technical qualities, ability to conjure up something different; takes responsibility as team leader.



HEAT MAP



|            |          |                        |            |                 |          |                             |         |
|------------|----------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| GAMES      | 5        | MINUTES PLAYED         | 152 (30.4) | GOALS           | 7 (1.4)  | ASSISTS                     | 4 (0.8) |
| BALLS LOST | 32 (6.4) | BALLS LOST IN OWN HALF | 12 (2.4)   | BALLS RECOVERED | 26 (5.2) | BALLS RECOVERED IN OPP HALF | 6 (1.2) |
| SHOTS      | 35 (7)   | SHOTS ON TARGET        | 20 (4)     |                 |          |                             |         |

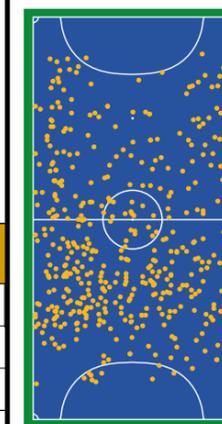
### POLA SPAIN



Top-class defensive qualities; constant off-the-ball movement and great finishing ability from any range.



HEAT MAP



|            |          |                        |           |                 |         |                             |         |
|------------|----------|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|---------|-----------------------------|---------|
| GAMES      | 5        | MINUTES PLAYED         | 91 (18.2) | GOALS           | 3 (0.7) | ASSISTS                     | 0 (0)   |
| BALLS LOST | 13 (2.6) | BALLS LOST IN OWN HALF | 3 (0.7)   | BALLS RECOVERED | 25 (5)  | BALLS RECOVERED IN OPP HALF | 8 (1.6) |
| SHOTS      | 25 (5)   | SHOTS ON TARGET        | 10 (2)    |                 |         |                             |         |

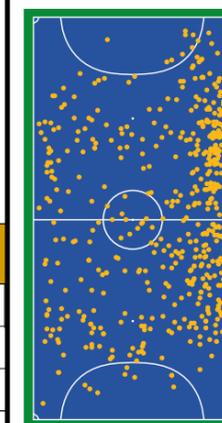
### TAYNAN KAZAKHSTAN



Excellent technical qualities; good passing, good finisher, contagiously competitive.



HEAT MAP



|            |          |                        |            |                 |          |                             |         |
|------------|----------|------------------------|------------|-----------------|----------|-----------------------------|---------|
| GAMES      | 5        | MINUTES PLAYED         | 141 (28.2) | GOALS           | 3 (0.6)  | ASSISTS                     | 2 (0.4) |
| BALLS LOST | 27 (5.4) | BALLS LOST IN OWN HALF | 7 (1.4)    | BALLS RECOVERED | 23 (4.6) | BALLS RECOVERED IN OPP HALF | 6 (1.2) |
| SHOTS      | 41 (8.2) | SHOTS ON TARGET        | 12 (2.4)   |                 |          |                             |         |

## Substitutes

### HIGUITA KAZAKHSTAN

Agile between the posts, confident, composed; influential as outfielder; simply the best with his feet.



|       |   |       |   |          |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|----------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 5 | GOALS | 1 | CONCEDED | 9 | ASSISTS | 1 |
|-------|---|-------|---|----------|---|---------|---|

### IGOR OSREDKAR SLOVENIA

Outstanding stamina, defensive skills, commitment; team player, captain and responsible leader.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 3 | GOALS | 2 | ASSISTS | 1 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

### BRUNO COELHO PORTUGAL

Excellent defensive skills, good off-the-ball movement; ability to create and exploit space.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 5 | GOALS | 6 | ASSISTS | 3 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

### IVAN CHISHKALA RUSSIA

Excellent technique, dribbling skills, changes of direction; great long-range shooting, athletic qualities.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 4 | GOALS | 1 | ASSISTS | 1 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

### ANDRÉ COELHO PORTUGAL

High head position enabled quality passing; long-range shooting; anticipation, defending without fouls.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 5 | GOALS | 2 | ASSISTS | 0 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

### MLADEN KOCIĆ SERBIA

Technically very gifted; good at out-dribbling opponents on either wing; leadership qualities.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 3 | GOALS | 0 | ASSISTS | 2 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

### MIGUELÍN SPAIN

Outstanding vision and passing ability; beats opponents on both sides; tremendous left-footed shot.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 5 | GOALS | 1 | ASSISTS | 3 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

### PEDRO CARY PORTUGAL

Good reading of game; tactical awareness, extension of coach; intelligent movement, scoring ability.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 5 | GOALS | 4 | ASSISTS | 1 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

### PETRO SHOTURMA UKRAINE

Consistent, fast, athletic left-footer; 1v1 skills, penetrating passes, fierce shot; good at high pressing.



|       |   |       |   |         |   |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|
| GAMES | 3 | GOALS | 2 | ASSISTS | 3 |
|-------|---|-------|---|---------|---|

5

FIVE OF THE 2018 TEAM OF THE TOURNAMENT WERE ALSO SELECTED IN 2016: HIGUITA, DOUGLAS JUNIOR, MLADEN KOCIĆ, MIGUELÍN AND RICARDINHO.

2

MIGUELÍN AND RICARDINHO HAVE MADE THE SELECTION IN THE PAST FOUR TOURNAMENTS. RICARDINHO IS THE ONLY PLAYER TO HAVE BEEN CHOSEN FIVE TIMES.

17

THERE HAVE BEEN 17 DIFFERENT SPANISH PLAYERS SELECTED IN THE SEVEN ALL-STAR TEAMS SINCE 2005, FOLLOWED BY ITALY, 12, AND RUSSIA, 11.

## COACH INTERVIEWS

# Views from the bench

In **two interviews** over the following pages, Portugal coach **Jorge Braz** and France's **Pierre Jacky** look back on a tournament that will leave lasting memories for futsal in their respective countries

UEFA technical observers Orlando Duarte and Javier Lozano drafted questions aimed at allowing two coaches to review the final tournament from different angles: the champion, Jorge Braz, and Pierre Jacky, the part-time coach of an amateur France squad who gained a first taste of a EURO in Slovenia and whose comments might be helpful to coaches aiming to make similar debuts in the future. The following pages offer abridged versions of interviews that were filmed a few weeks after the final tournament.



Jorge Braz's "ultra-calm approach" under pressure paid dividends

## INTERVIEW

## JORGE BRAZ

## 'Total confidence'

**Thinking back, what difficulties did you encounter on and off the pitch prior to and during the tournament?**

I think the big advantage we had was that we didn't view anything as a difficult obstacle. After what we'd been through in previous EUROs and World Cups, when we didn't always deal well with difficulties, the way we looked at it was: we know it's not all going to be smooth in the lead-up, during matches, or in our day-to-day relations. But we're not going to let this hold us back. We're going to find ways to overcome these difficulties. We prepared in this spirit, and that proved to be crucial. There were hiccups, but we knew we could overcome anything that came our way. This actually gave us lots of strength during the tournament.

**How did you manage public and media expectations and the pressure on you to win the championship?**

We set ourselves the target of winning a medal and we knew exactly what colour. This was our clear goal and it didn't add to the pressure; it was a positive. There were times when I made an effort to transmit a feeling of complete confidence and calmness from the bench. In Portugal they labelled it "calm strength" and that was exactly it. We had total confidence and each individual calmly did the job he had to do. We would have to show our quality, use our heads, and keep our emotions in check.

**Talking about emotions, at the precise moment when the final hooter sounded how did you feel?**

In all honesty, I don't think what we'd just done had sunk in, perhaps because of the rational, ultra-calm approach I adopted as coach in order to transmit total confidence to the players. I'll tell you my last words before the first match kicked off. I demanded silence, because I didn't want shouting or emotions. "Let's start calmly, knowing what we have to do." When the hooter sounded at the end of extra time in the final, it was a feeling of huge happiness, but I think I was still in that calm-strength

mode! I didn't jump up and down, I didn't get emotional, but after a few minutes I felt relief after all the years of work. Afterwards I reflected that it was by following our own path, having belief, fully trusting what we were doing, that we got there in the end, and it was something of a relief. I didn't show my emotion but, inside, the feeling was incredible and indescribable.

**UEFA's technical observers selected Ricardinho as Player of the Tournament, not only because of his solo performance but, more importantly, because of his contribution to the collective success. What can you tell us about this?** I've no doubts whatsoever about the

significance of Ricardo's contribution. He has individual skills that nobody else has. But what people were not so aware of is how he contributes to the team. Ricardo masters all aspects of futsal like no one else in the game today. As our captain he was clearly aware that there were extremely important facets to make our team stronger, and Ricardo played this role, as he'd done in the past but perhaps not so overtly. Ricardo was always pointing, giving instructions: "Come here, head up, you're taking this, come here and defend." For the best player in the world to contribute in this way, pushing the team forward whenever he had to, leaves me in no doubt that Ricardo truly deserved the individual award. But the



Jorge Braz celebrates Portugal's triumph

**"WE HAVE TO BE VERY BOLD, AGGRESSIVE, LIVELY AND POSITIVE WHEN ATTACKING, ALWAYS WITH OUR EYES ON GOAL"**

collective effort wasn't only down to Ricardo, although he was the most visible side of it. Bruno Coelho, Pedro Cary, João Matos and the younger kids all complemented each other, helped each other, which is what a team is all about.

**Portugal scored 25% of the goals in Slovenia. Why do you think there were so few goals in this tournament?**

Our attacking approach is an important aspect. Teams increasingly focus on defensive discipline. You often hear teams saying, "Don't give anything away," because if you give nothing away you've got a chance of winning. Weaker teams are aware of this. Taking risks, showing attacking courage has maybe become less of a priority. As coaches, we should always try to anticipate things, think through how the game is evolving. It's clear to me we have to be defensively sound. But we have to be very bold, aggressive, lively and positive when attacking, always with our eyes on the goal. I remember the game against Russia. In the first half, we weren't passing sideways; we were on the front foot. At the break, I simply said we have to play with our usual boldness, liveliness, attacking spirit, because I suspected teams would be defensively tight in this EURO. We had to be defensively disciplined, but not focus on defence. Because we don't want to be like the others. We clearly had to be defensively solid but retain our boldness, because that's the DNA of Portuguese futsal: dynamism, creativity with and without the ball, forward-thinking, being progressive with our movement, four-man play, use of a pivot ... This has always been our game. We ended up being an extremely positive team, attacking strongly without ever dropping our guard defensively. With the emphasis on defence, it was obvious there would be fewer goals and less open games. But there were many points of interest.

**Talking about defensive work, did you see a tendency to move away from zonal marking?**

A little, yes, which is to be expected given the attacking quality of the top players. Any defensive lapses in handing over opponents in zonal systems can be picked apart today by the best players.

They find spaces expertly and that's the way the game is developing. To combat this, many coaches opt for man-to-man marking to make sure no player is ever left free. The increased physicality we are seeing in the game is better suited to man-to-man marking and makes it more difficult to attack. We have to think about how we're going to attack if everybody's marking man-to-man, more physically and more aggressively. One focus during pre-tournament preparations was to work on some non-standard ideas. We had to be different. We knew we'd be man-marked and come up against extremely physical defences. So we had to find a way round our opponents. We tried to create a dynamic and positive attacking game, because there is a trend towards individualising the sport in defensive terms because nobody wants to run risks and leave men free. The fashion now is to focus on not conceding and staying in the game. This is one approach, but I prefer forward-thinking and trying to be innovative, creative.

**Why do you think there was less use of 1v1 skills during the tournament?****Do you think these skills are not developed or encouraged in training?**

I think it's vital to understand the importance of high-quality one-on-one defending. But if we develop players only to defend against their direct opponent, they won't think about collective defending. If they only know how to defend one-on-one, we'll be in trouble. They won't become elite players. They have to understand all the processes. I look at the development and learning of the game by youngsters a bit differently. It's very important that they understand what defending well means. They have to master individual duels, zonal marking, defending with a defensive switch, what a switch of marking is; they have to master a range of principles and basics of the game. I hope the game doesn't go down the road of the current fashion just because man-to-man marking is having some success. We should teach our young players much more than this limited vision, furnish them with more tools, because sending everybody along the same route and following a fashion is wrong! We have to teach the game as a whole – that's what's important.

## INTERVIEW

## PIERRE JACKY

## 'Great pride'

**What were your thoughts from a sporting perspective and as a coach after France's debut at a UEFA Futsal EURO?**

It was a great source of pride, after so much training and preparation, to reach what is the pinnacle for many coaches. Being involved in the competition is the ultimate achievement. It was a first for our federation and the first time an amateur team had gone so far, given that we played seven qualifying matches to get there. It's not something that teams normally manage to achieve, which makes it an even bigger source of pride; not just for the players but for all the people who pioneered futsal in France and the clubs who believed in this adventure 15 or 20 years ago. All these people were in my thoughts, as were my predecessors at the French Football Federation.

**UEFA's technical observers described you as a breath of fresh air at the tournament, in terms of tactics and your style of play. You played without fear. What did you do to help create this atmosphere?**

We were able to play without fear because we were amateurs playing against professionals, which made it easier to play more freely. We were the least fancied of the 12 teams, so there was no pressure on us. I gave my players a lot of freedom to be creative and use their imagination. It's a game first and foremost, and I like players to take the initiative, whether in positional attacks or playing the ball out when the opposition is pressing. I place more emphasis on the basic elements of play than on programming players to make runs. Adopting this approach can also surprise opponents. I also try to tailor my approach to suit the players at my disposal. When you have talented, creative players who are good in one-on-one situations, as I do, I think it's important to build around those players' strengths.

**What are your views on the current state of futsal in France, in terms of development and initiatives for the future of the game?**

At the moment there are only 30,000 registered futsal players in France, though there are a lot of registered footballers who play futsal, especially during the winter, and on top of that there are the youngsters who are playing the game. So there are more than 200,000 futsal players playing the game throughout the year. The main issue is our club structure. We've mainly got small clubs focused on futsal. They are very enthusiastic about the sport, though. We have a National School Sport Union, which runs competitions at high school and college level, where futsal has replaced football and handball as the number one sport. That shows the level of enthusiasm our sport generates, particularly among teenagers. Futsal has a lot going for it: there is plenty of goalmouth action, your eyes are on the ball the whole time, it's end-to-end, everyone has chances to shoot and score, and there are two or three times more goals per game.

**In Slovenia, you said you've set your sights on joining futsal's elite within ten years. Do you have development plans in place?**

Yes, we will implement the development plan that was already in the pipeline before the EURO, but I think that will now have an added impetus in view of our results and the positive public response to our performances in Ljubljana. The plan involves creating more futsal courts, building more outdoor courts to address the shortage of sports halls. Many high schools and colleges have outdoor pitches that we would like to see resurfaced to make them suitable for futsal. We plan to open a national futsal centre to meet the needs of elite players, like the one built 20 or 30 years ago for the boys, and 15 years ago for the girls. The centre, which will be in Lyon, will bring together around 20 of our best 16 to 18-year-olds, who will train five times a week in the best conditions. We think it will take ten years for these efforts to translate into results at senior level and hopefully help France reach a World Cup or European

France coach  
Pierre Jacky

**"FOLLOW YOUR DREAM. YOU CAN NEVER SET YOUR SIGHTS TOO HIGH. WHAT I EXPERIENCED WITH THE PLAYERS WILL BE ETCHED ON OUR MEMORIES FOREVER"**

Championship final. That's what everyone's dreaming about. We will also try to add more structure to the club system, by creating what we call a club licence. We've already done this with our leading amateur clubs. In return for financial support, we ask clubs to further develop their infrastructure, not only at technical level but also in youth team development, coaching, coaching qualifications and all the related organisational and educational work. We also hope to see some professional clubs launch futsal teams.

**As a coach, what did you learn in Slovenia?**

I learned a lot. I think you always need to question what you are doing, which is a piece of advice I give to all the coaches I train. There's always something new to learn; even more so in my case compared with my fellow national coaches as I'm involved in the game on a part-time basis. The players also learned how to handle this type of event, particularly on a mental level, in terms of focus, concentration and lots of other aspects; and obviously they

also learned a lot in terms of tactics. The tactical trends that I noticed were similar to what we've seen at previous World Cups and EUROs. A lot of teams switched between 1-4-0 and 1-3-1 formations, but I was disappointed that there were a lot fewer goals than normal. It was a real shame not to see teams taking more risks in attack, and that most teams set out to force opponents into mistakes rather than impose their own way of playing and take risks in positional attacks. Even when teams broke on the counter, they often committed only one or two players. It was when they were hit on the break that teams conceded most goals. But that's part of the game and the learning process.

**Should anything be changed to improve the game as a spectacle?**

I noticed a lot of long clearances by goalkeepers, and they produced a very small number of goals. That probably doesn't do much for entertainment levels. We could consider reintroducing the rule that was in force around 15 years ago, which prevented keepers from throwing the ball outside their own half. I think there would definitely be more pressing, but it would prevent all the long balls that detract from the spectacle, resulting all too often in possession being lost.

**Expanding the finals to 16 teams would give other national teams the chance to do what France achieved this time around. If you could give a colleague taking part in their first EURO one piece of advice, what would it be?**

Follow your dream. You can never set your sights too high. When you aim high enough, you don't finish up too low! In sport, anything is possible. I would want them to experience what I experienced with the players, which was an incredible moment that will be etched in our memories forever. It was the high point of my career, my 'marshal's baton' as we say in France, and I hope to share it with others in the game. When we go from 12 to 16 teams, the better amateur nations like Germany and England could help raise the profile of the tournament even more.

# Knowledge sharing

From tactical trends and developments to bringing through the next generation of talent, there was much for the coaches and technical observers to discuss in Slovenia



Spain coach José Venancio López issues instructions

The imminent introduction of the UEFA Under-19 Futsal EURO was vindicated by a statistic that caught the eye of the UEFA technical observers. When the ball started rolling in Slovenia, 46% of the players on show had passed their 30th birthday. And the only player under the age of 21 was 19-year-old Poland goalkeeper Michał Kałuża.

Sadly, maybe, it was nothing new. As long ago as EURO 2010, the observers in Hungary had noted “of the 60 most regular starters, 38 had reached or passed the age of 30”. “If so many over-30s can keep on playing at top level,” Spain coach José Venancio López remarked in Slovenia, “it is because younger talents are not finding a way through.”

Serbia coach Goran Ivančić said: “Importing Brazilians has undoubtedly raised the levels of technique. But our youngsters must get more opportunities to play because they need more international experience if they want to make the jump to the senior team.”

The lack of playing time for potential elite players was a common concern among the coaches at EURO 2018. Italy coach Roberto Menichelli, for instance, reflected: “The gap between youth and senior levels is a big problem. There are good youngsters but [they are] not yet ready for the top. They would suffer if they were thrown into a competition of this level. And many coaches are finding that a transitional phase can mean a serious risk in terms of results.” The fact that 13 outfield players remained unused during the final tournament suggests that even some of the squad members selected may



Romania's Robert Lupu took part in his first Futsal EURO as a coach

## “IT'S IMPORTANT FOR FORMER PLAYERS TO MOVE INTO COACHING IN ORDER TO RAISE THE LEVEL OF COMPETITION”

not have fully completed the pathway from development to elite levels.

Romania coach Robert Lupu, who represented his country as a player at EURO 2014, added: “We have U17 competitions but then there is a huge gap to the senior team. It's not easy for players because the lack of opportunities to acquire international experience doesn't help them to bridge that gap. We now have games under futsal rules in our schools, but it will take some years for that to bear fruit. This is why the introduction of an U19 competition can only be beneficial.”

Javier Lozano and Orlando Duarte, UEFA's technical observers in Slovenia, reflected on the aspects that require educational work in helping players to bridge the gaps between generations and between domestic league and elite national team levels. Although fitness

and power are highly relevant factors, they prioritised the mental and physical intensity required at the top level, allied with sustained concentration and, most importantly in their opinion, high-speed decision-making.

Serbia coach Goran Ivančić also stressed the need to work on “basics such as passing principles, the use of both feet, body positioning and so on”. Poland coach Blazej Korczynski commented: “This means that when you get the national team together you cannot overlook basics, such as the ability to visually cover ball and opponent at the same time.”

“The technical reports on futsal events are useful in encouraging senior players to become coaches,” Lupu added. “I think it's important for former players to move into coaching in order to raise the level of competition.”

### ALL IN THE DETAIL

Comments from the coaches in Ljubljana prompted Javier Lozano and Orlando Duarte to focus on specific details from games played in Slovenia that coaches might find useful when working with young players and equipping them with the qualities they will require at elite level.

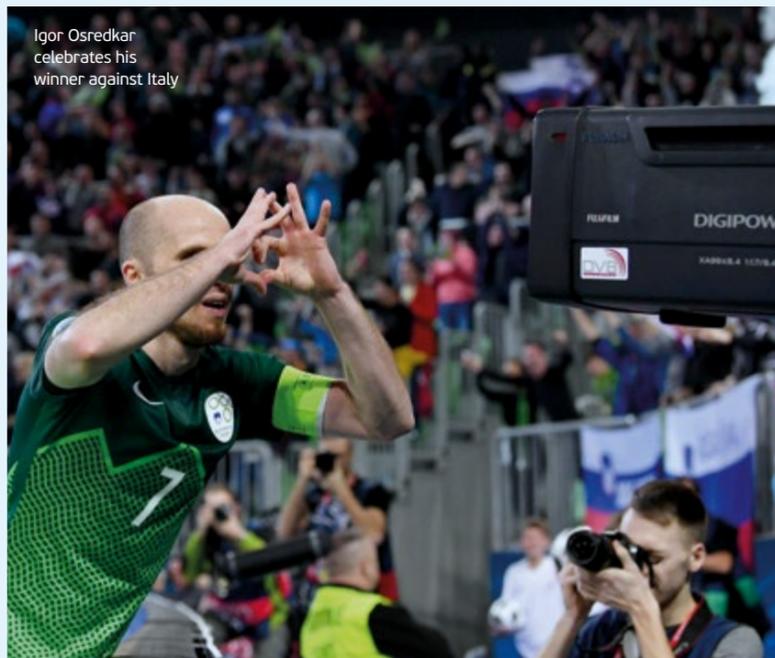


### THE FIELD OF VISION

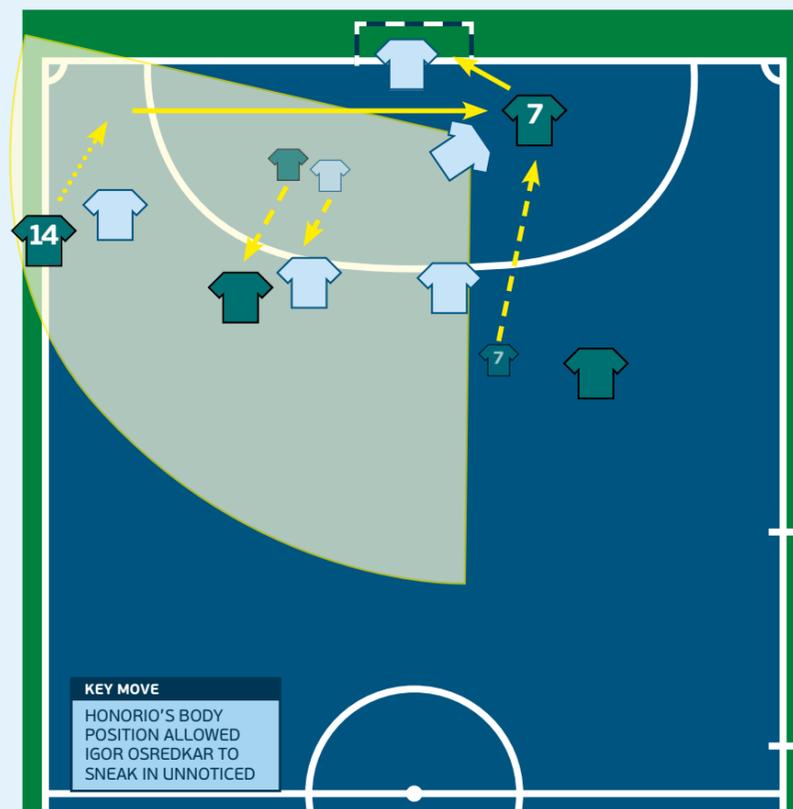
ITALY 1-2 SLOVENIA

It is all about attention to detail – including body positioning, as mentioned by Goran Ivančić. Italy, after a rampant first half, were leading hosts Slovenia 1-0 and cruising towards top spot in Group A when the clock ticked past the 30-minute mark. Then came a critical moment that highlighted the importance of tiny details. Spectators saw Matej Fideršek deliver a low cross from the left for Slovenia skipper Igor Osredkar, totally unmarked, to tap in at the far post. Why was he totally unmarked?

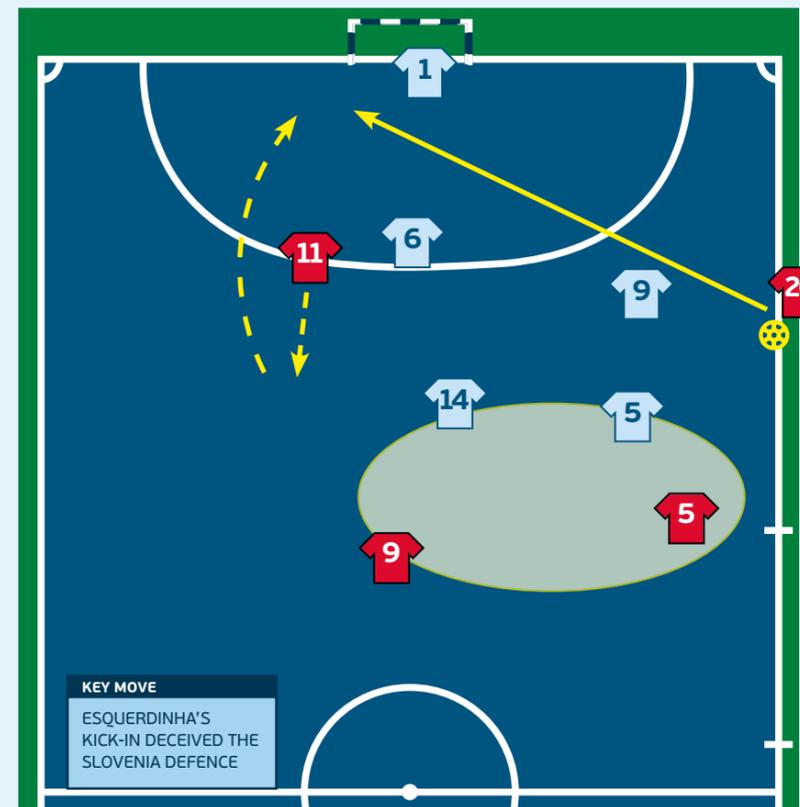
On the left, No14 Fideršek had taken on Marco Ercolessi 1v1. A few metres infield, Murilo engaged in close-quarter jostling with Denis Totošković – a diversion that took the Italy player out of the area and opened a pathway for the cross. From a deeper midfield position, No7 Osredkar embarked on a run between team-mate Alen Fetić and Italy's Júlio De Oliveira. The latter, faced with a dilemma, opted to stay with Fetić and allow Osredkar to continue his run unaccompanied. In the centre, close to keeper Stefano Mammarella, Humberto Honorio was the only defender with a chance of picking up the Slovenia captain. The tiny but critical factor at this juncture was his body position. He was square-on to the action on the wing, visually covering the area between himself and Ercolessi. The key factor from a coaching perspective is that, had Honorio made a minute anti-clockwise adjustment to his body position, Osredkar's back-post run would have appeared in his field of vision. In the event, he could only react with a look of surprise when the crowd erupted. A combination of tiny details had produced a goal that led to elimination for the 2014 champions. It was one of the pivotal moments of the championship.



Igor Osredkar celebrates his winner against Italy



KEY MOVE  
HONORIO'S BODY POSITION ALLOWED IGOR OSREDKAR TO SNEAK IN UNNOTICED



KEY MOVE  
ESQUERDINHA'S KICK-IN DECEIVED THE SLOVENIA DEFENCE



Esquerdinha plays the ball low into the Slovenia area

### THE ART OF DECEPTION

SLOVENIA 0-2 RUSSIA

Small details like body shape can also encourage opponents to reach an erroneous conclusion. "Futsal is a sport where you can exploit the art of deceiving your opponent," said Javier Lozano. And, to illustrate the point, he flagged up a kick-in by Russia during the quarter-final against Slovenia. "Personally," fellow UEFA technical observer Orlando Duarte remarked, "I prefer to spend more time in training on kick-ins than on corners. You might get eight or nine corners during a game, but you usually have more opportunities from kick-ins." His viewpoint was statistically backed by an average of nine corners per team across the tournament.

In this case, left-footed Esquerdinha shaped up to take a seemingly innocuous kick-in for Russia midway into Slovenian territory on the right. His 'shape' was, in fact, deceptive. The positioning of his body and, above all, his head suggested powerfully that he was about to play a backward pass to either Romulo or Sergei Abramov with a view to retaining possession and initiating a positional attack from midfield. Russia's No11, Artem Niyazov, added further credence to the suggestion by retreating from position at the edge of the area. With Slovenia's defensive block edging forward in anticipation, Esquerdinha sprang the trap by, while still looking the other way, cutting the ball behind the defence while Niyazov swivelled round and met the ball at the far post. The miracle was that the art of deception and the point-blank finish failed to produce a goal.



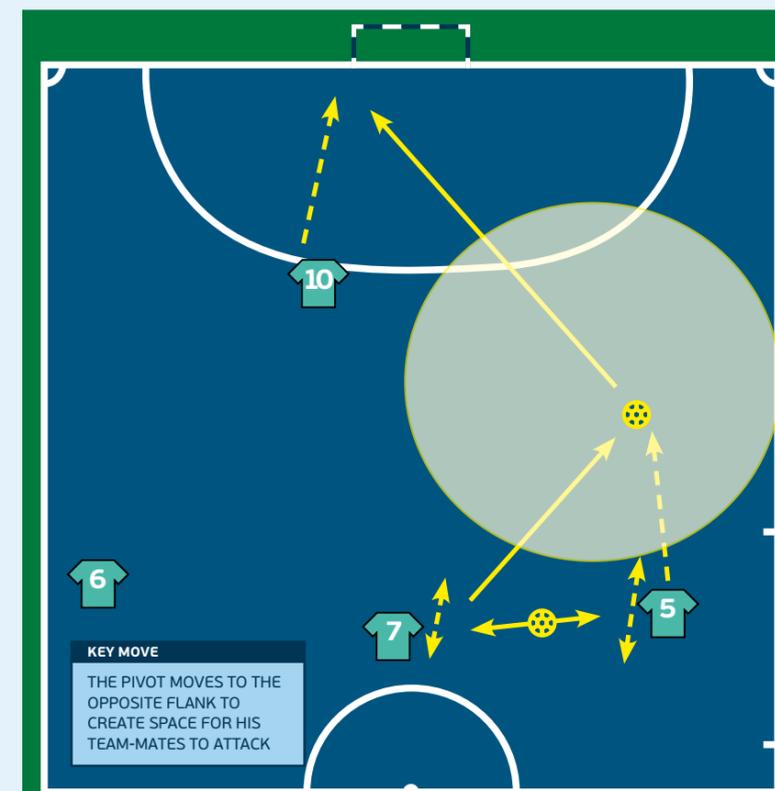
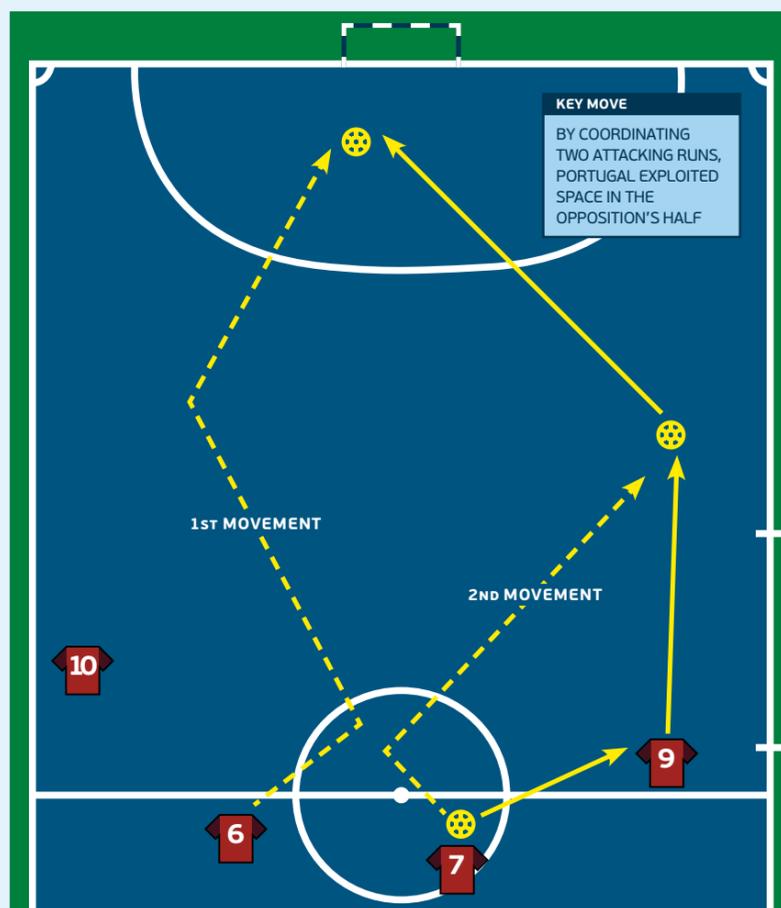
Bruno Coelho darts into space against Ukraine

## SPLIT-SECOND THOUGHTS

UKRAINE 3-5 PORTUGAL

As clearing pathways to the goal is the major challenge in the confined spaces of the futsal court, off-ball movement and speed of decision-making are critical factors. Portugal's fluent 1-4-0 attacking system featured frequent use of a double movement – the first aimed at provoking a positional reaction from the opponents' defensive system and the second aimed at exploiting any space left free as a result of that first reaction. The two movements were coordinated in a way that made them almost simultaneous – but not quite.

If the first movement (the diagram, based on a move during Portugal's match against Ukraine, shows a diagonal run through the central area) is covered by the opposing defence, there is more space in the wide area. So, in the blink of an eye, the second movement takes a player wide to receive a vertical pass with a view to exploiting the vacated space, while the player who has made the first run continues towards the far post, aiming to connect with a shot, rebound or firmly driven pass.



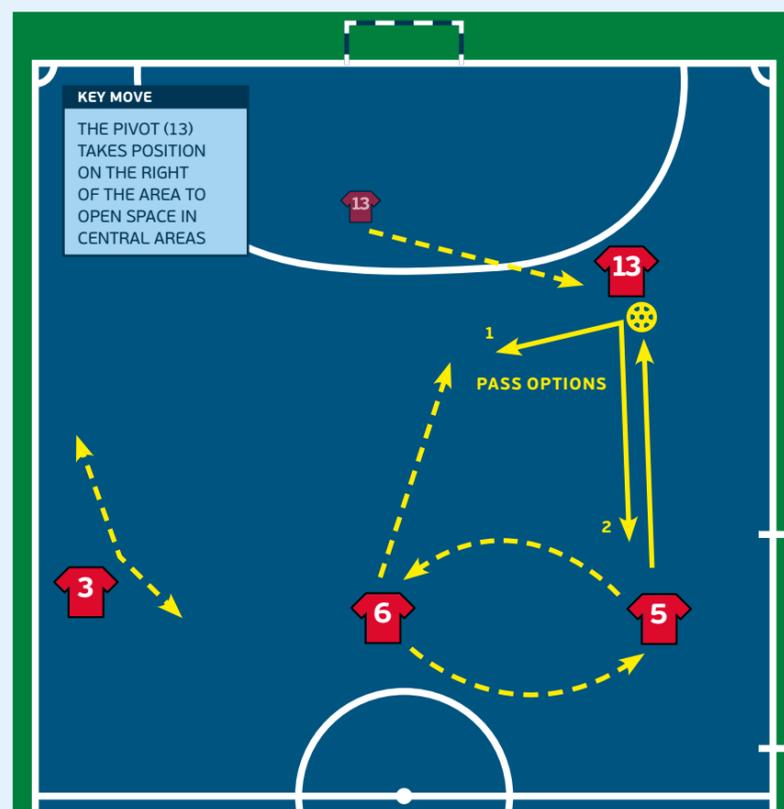
## QUICK EXCHANGE

SLOVENIA 0-2 RUSSIA

Another ploy was illustrated during Slovenia's quarter-final against Russia. The situation was an attack on the wing, aggressively pressed by opponents. In response, two players combine in a limited space, interchanging short passes and making feint runs until one gains space against the onrushing defenders to play a wall-pass into the free space on the wing and create a situation of numerical superiority. For this move to function, the pivot cleared the area in front of his two teammates by drifting to the opposite flank or towards the back post. If the wall-pass is successful, the receiving player ideally strikes a cross-shot towards the far post.



Slovenia coach Andrej Dobovičnik urges his team on against Russia



### PIVOTAL MOVEMENTS

FRANCE 3-5 AZERBAIJAN

In Slovenia, there was a diversity of approaches to attacking structures. Italy, for example, operated with a pivot only when the injury to Gabriel Lima allowed Fortino to be drafted into the squad. Russia used Eder Lima sparingly in the classic pivot role. The final showed how Spain gave depth to their attacking against Portugal's high-press strategy by deploying Francisco Solano – a pivot who had remained on the bench for the entirety of the 50 minutes during the semi-final against Kazakhstan.

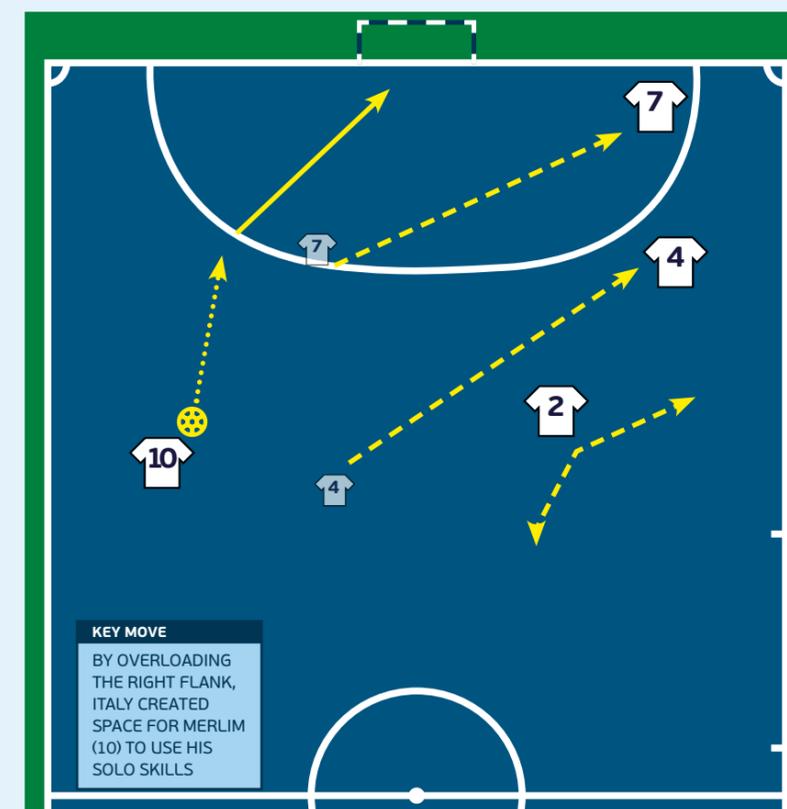
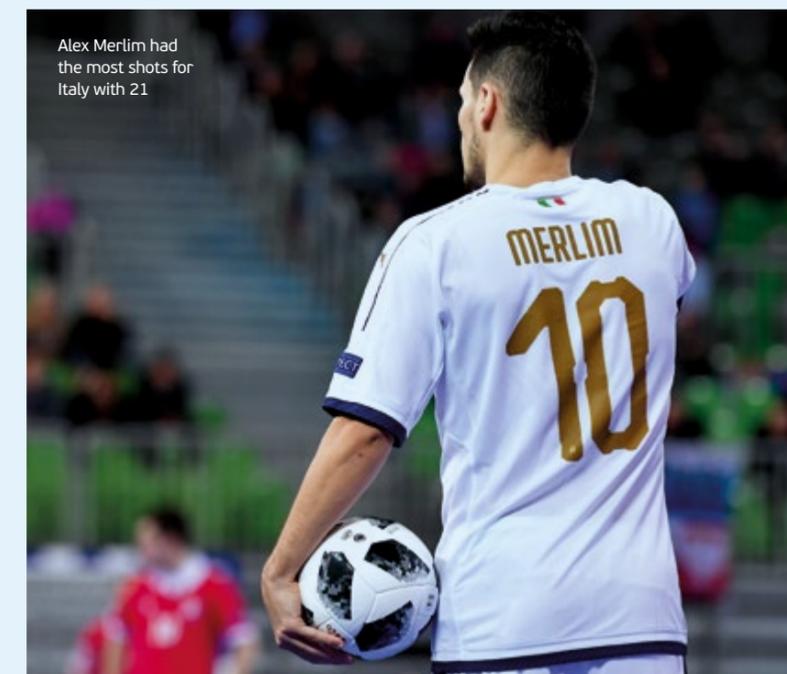
In general, the tournament highlighted a clear trend away from the use of a fairly static central pivot, with most teams, if operating with a pivot, preferring him to move into wide positions with a view to posing questions to defenders and opening spaces in central areas. As a random example, the diagram shows a typical 1-3-1 attack-building movement by Azerbaijan against France, with No5 Fineo and No6 Eduardo permuting their positions on the right of the line of three. The pivot (in that game) Everton Cardoso would run wide on the right to receive a vertical pass and would then either lay the ball into the path of the supporting run from behind or, if he was being policed by two opponents, play the ball back for his team-mate to pass into the space that his manoeuvre had opened up.

### CREATING SPACE

SERBIA 1-1 ITALY

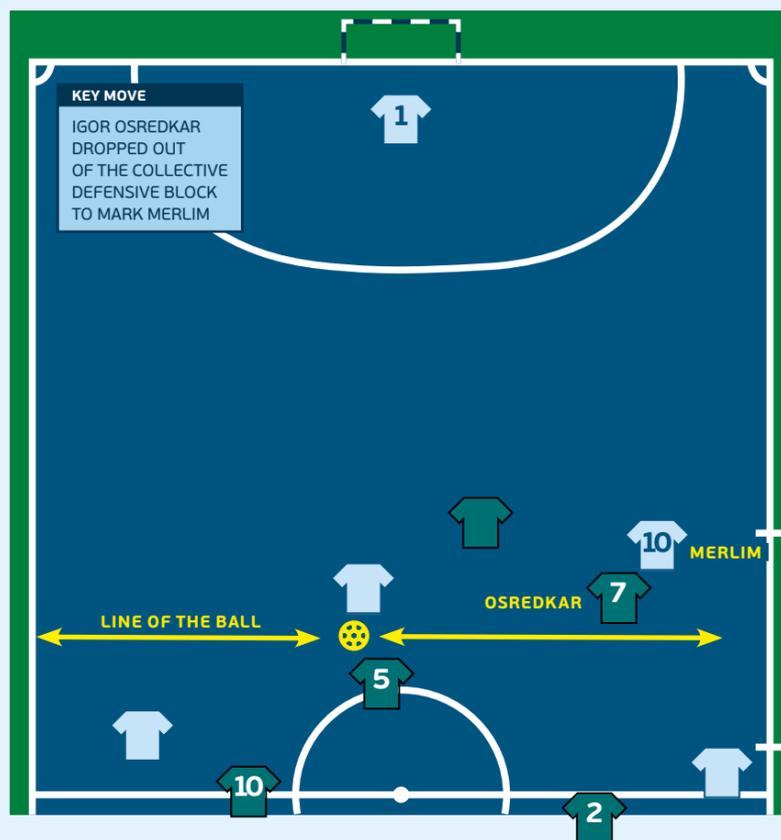
As the goalscoring section of this report reveals, solo runs with the ball accounted for only half-a-dozen goals, including the first of the tournament when Alen Fetić ran clear to put the hosts ahead against Serbia. A high ball-win by Savio allowed him to put Romania 1-0 up against Ukraine. And two 'solo' goals stemmed from counters against flying goalkeepers – Portugal's fourth against Romania and Ukraine's winner against the same opponents. The debating point was whether soloists are not being developed or are being discouraged from exercising their 1v1 skills as a result of risk-management policies.

The tendency to rely on direct attacking or positional play based on passing combinations, rather than 1v1 options, implies a greater relevance of the ability to create space. One of the most frequently seen ploys was to overload one flank with a view to offering 1v1 possibilities to a solo performer on the opposite flank. Italy provided classic examples during their opening match against Serbia (Roberto Menichelli's attacking options were enriched by the incorporation of pivot Fortino for the second match). Alex Merlim emerged as the main attacking threat – and the diagram refers to the game against Serbia, with No4 Sergio Romano and No7 Massimo De Luca making diagonal runs from left to right while No2 Marco Ercolessi dropped either wide or deep to draw his marker away. The overload on the right gave Merlim the space to exploit his solo skills on the less-populated flank. Merlim had 21 goal attempts in Italy's two matches – far and away ahead of his team-mates in Italy's goal-shy campaign. His nearest 'rivals' were Fortino with six attempts, plus Lima, De Oliveira and Romano with five apiece.





Slovenia captain Igor Osredkar keeps a close eye on Italy's Merlim



### MIX AND MATCH

ITALY 1-2 SLOVENIA

The tournament also offered diversity in terms of defensive marking systems, with France, Poland, Russia, Serbia and Ukraine generally preferring individual marking, albeit with occasional permutations of personnel. Marking at set plays also provided a debating point. After a corner on the right, for example, had allowed Pola to score the goal that secured Spain's 1-0 win against Azerbaijan, Orlando Duarte remarked: "This could be used as evidence by those of us who believe that man-marking at set plays is a risky option."

One of the variations that caught the eye of the technical observers was Slovenia's defensive set-up in the crucial Group A match against Italy. During the first half, the hosts operated a 1-1-2-1 defence without exerting great pressure on the ball carrier. After the interval – until equalising – they implemented a 1-1-1-2 structure with much more aggressive pressure on the ball and faster support for defensive coverage. The salient feature, however, was the use of a mixed marking system with Osredkar dropping out of the collective defensive block to man-mark Italy's key attacking threat, No10 Alex Merlim. As the diagram shows, this sometimes meant that the Slovenia captain was on the 'wrong' side of the ball and removed from the team's defensive structure.

### PRESSING: RISK v REWARD

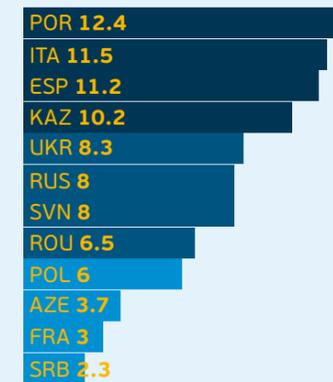
RUSSIA 2-3 PORTUGAL

At a tournament where the coaches' approach to risk management emerged as a talking point, one of Russia's attacking ploys caught the eye on account of the risk it entailed. After missing the match against Kazakhstan and beginning on the bench against Slovenia, Robinho returned to the starting line-up for the semi-final against Portugal and, especially when Sergei Skorovich's team were chasing the result, was the main protagonist of Russia's high-risk attacking option. As the diagram shows, No10 Robinho would gain possession in his own half of the pitch, wave his team-mates forward and engage in a face-off with his marker.

His three fellow outfielders would move upfield into staggered positions near the opponents' goal, drawing defenders with them and offering Robinho a huge space for manoeuvre. If his ball skills and change of pace paid dividends against his marker, he could run into the empty area, sometimes pushing directly into a 1v1 situation against the goalkeeper. If he was caught in possession, the results could be disastrous. So the high-risk ploy is only viable when the team has a player with exceptional 1v1 abilities.

As Javier Lozano remarked: "The approach was often conservative with, sometimes, three players in balancing roles behind the ball. During the knockout games, there was a less fearful attitude and more teams were prepared to press high and provoke errors." Statistics on interceptions and ball-winning in the opposition half offer somewhat conflicting evidence. It could hardly be regarded as coincidence that the two finalists, Portugal and Spain, were at the head of the field when it came to winning possession in opposition territory, with fourth-placed Kazakhstan not far behind. On the other hand, bronze medallists Russia posted a modest average, whereas Italy – eliminated in the group stage – were third behind the two finalists in terms of high ball-winning.

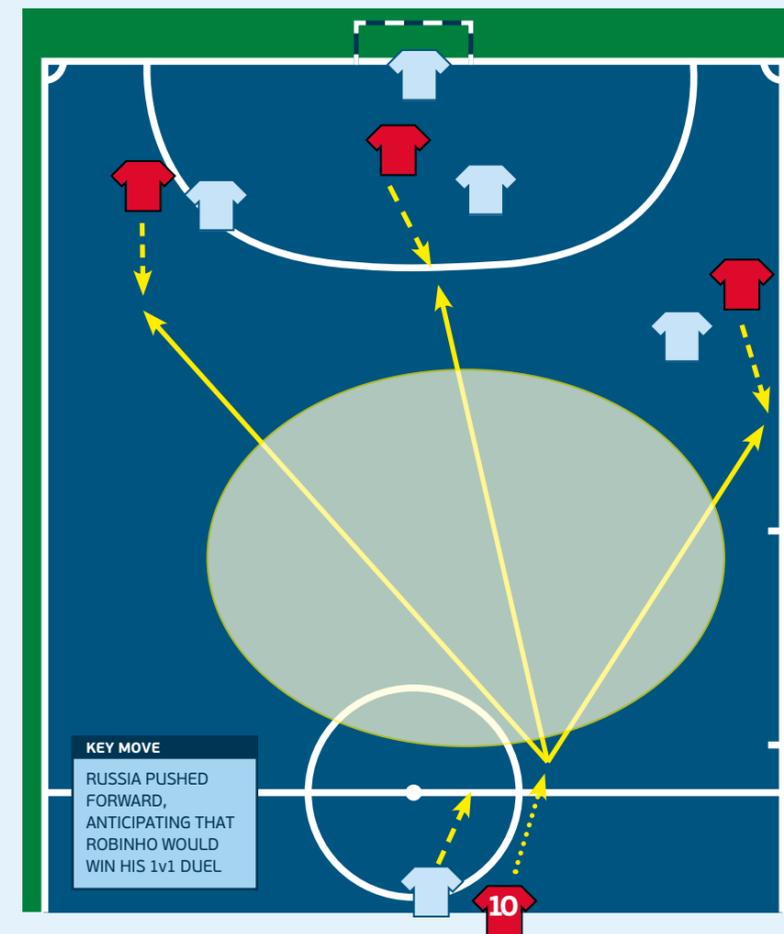
#### INTERCEPTIONS IN OPPOSITION HALF\*



#### BALLS RECOVERED IN OPPOSITION HALF\*



\*AVERAGE PER GAME



# Keepers take charge

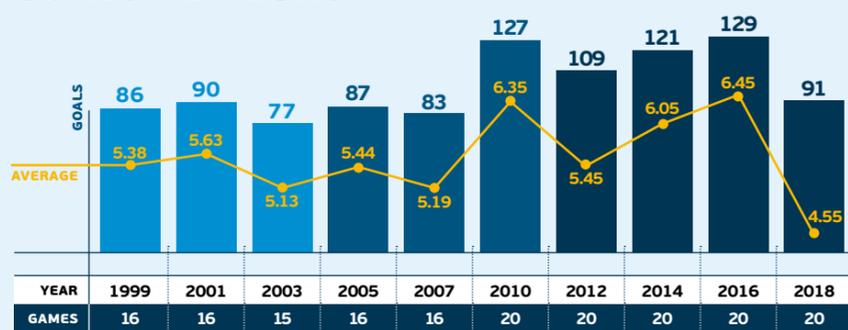
From great goalkeeping to risk management, discussion centred on why this tournament produced fewer goals than any other 12-team UEFA Futsal EURO



Hiquita comes out to block from Miguelín

A major talking point to emerge from the final tournament in Slovenia was the massive downturn in the number of goals scored. The total of 91 was almost 30% down on the record tally registered in Serbia two years earlier. Fluctuations can be considered normal. But such a significant discrepancy raised eyebrows. And the fact that the average number of goals per match was, by a considerable margin, the lowest ever recorded at a final tournament was a cause for

## GOALS PER EURO



**“THERE WAS A TENDENCY TO DEFEND DEEPER RATHER THAN GO FOR THE HIGH PRESS, BUT YOU HAVE TO PACE THE TEAM IN A HEAVY MATCH SCHEDULE”**

concern. When final klaxons sounded, four teams left the court after failing to find the net and 14 after having scored only one goal. Portugal, with a total of 23, provided one-quarter of the tournament total, and the five matches involving the eventual champions accounted for 35% of the goals.

Debate volunteered various possible causes for the abrupt downturn – among them risk-management policies, especially during a group stage that produced an unprecedented five draws. Italy coach Roberto Menichelli addressed the issue from a slightly different angle. “There seems to be a greater tendency to play across the pitch,” he said. “It is easy to overlook the importance of verticality. And if teams focus on defending ten metres in front of their goal, it is difficult to maintain levels of spectacle and entertainment.”

“You could detect a tendency to defend deeper rather than go for the high press,” Azerbaijan coach Alesio commented during the group phase, “but you have to pace the team for knockout matches in a heavy match schedule.”

The ‘powers that be’ in European futsal certainly struggled to assert their supremacy. Italy, Russia and Spain – the three nations who had previously monopolised the title – came through the group stage with minimal successes in front of goal: Russia and Italy with two goals apiece; Spain with five. The latter were alone in winning a game.

## ATTEMPTS ON GOAL

**A SLIGHT FALL IN ATTEMPTS DID NOT EXPLAIN THE DROP IN GOALS**

The sharp downturn in goalscoring was a two-sided coin. One side arguably reflected a lack of attacking productivity. Yet the striking decline in goals was not backed by a striking decline in the number of goal attempts. The 2018 statistical balance showed no more than a 2.7% downturn in the number of attempts and a 3.7% drop in the number of shots on target. A negative trend, yet way out of line with the 30% shortfall in goals.

Half of the contestants registered more off-target attempts than shots accurately directed between the posts. A detailed look at the information on the team pages in this report reveals that the percentages of on-target finishing varied from 26% by Slovenia to 50% by Romania – even though the latter went home earlier than the hosts. Azerbaijan and France were the only other teams to surpass the 40% mark, while finalists Portugal and Spain posted figures of 35% and 32% respectively in terms of on-target finishing.

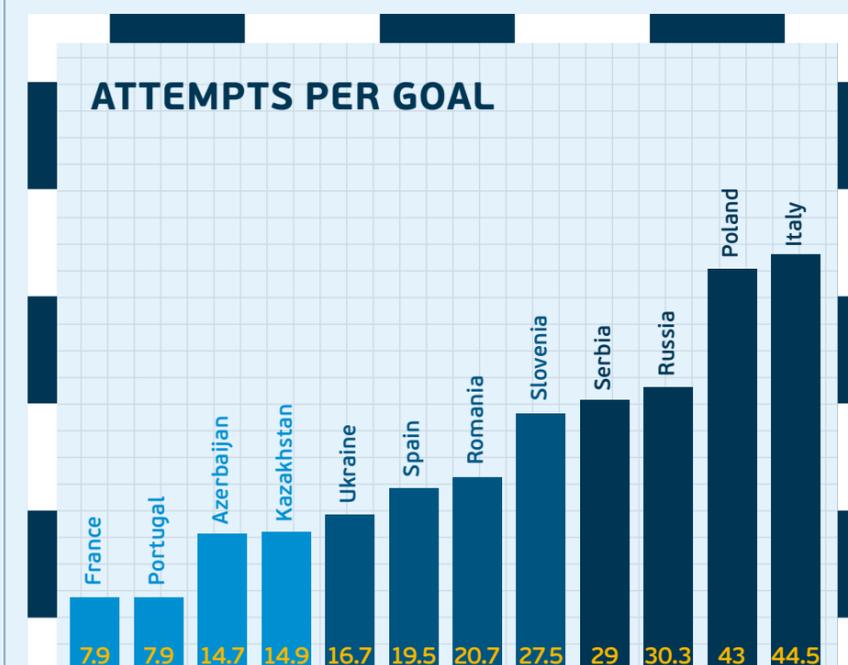
The team pages also reveal that

Portugal won the title with a ratio of one goal per 7.9 attempts – far ahead of all their opponents in terms of scoring efficiency. Spain, who won the 2016 title with a scoring ratio of 1:7.6, required an average of 19.5 attempts to hit the net in Slovenia. In 2016, Czech Republic (1:20 attempts) and Slovenia (1:25) were the least effective. In 2018, six of the contestants returned worse figures, notably Poland (1:43) and Italy (1:44.5).

Was it down to worse attacking skills? Or better defending?

The UEFA technical observers acknowledged proficiency in the arts of defending – and the discipline with which defensive duties were executed. The number of goal attempts blocked by defenders rose by 10% in comparison with EURO 2016. This raises questions about decision-making (i.e. when to shoot) and, bearing in mind the growing tendency for defenders to put themselves momentarily out of the game by spreading themselves horizontally on the court to block, the need to emphasise at development levels the value attachable to the arts of feinting and dummying.

However, studying the other side of the coin in more detail, how much of the goalscoring decline was due to improved standards of goalkeeping?



## HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

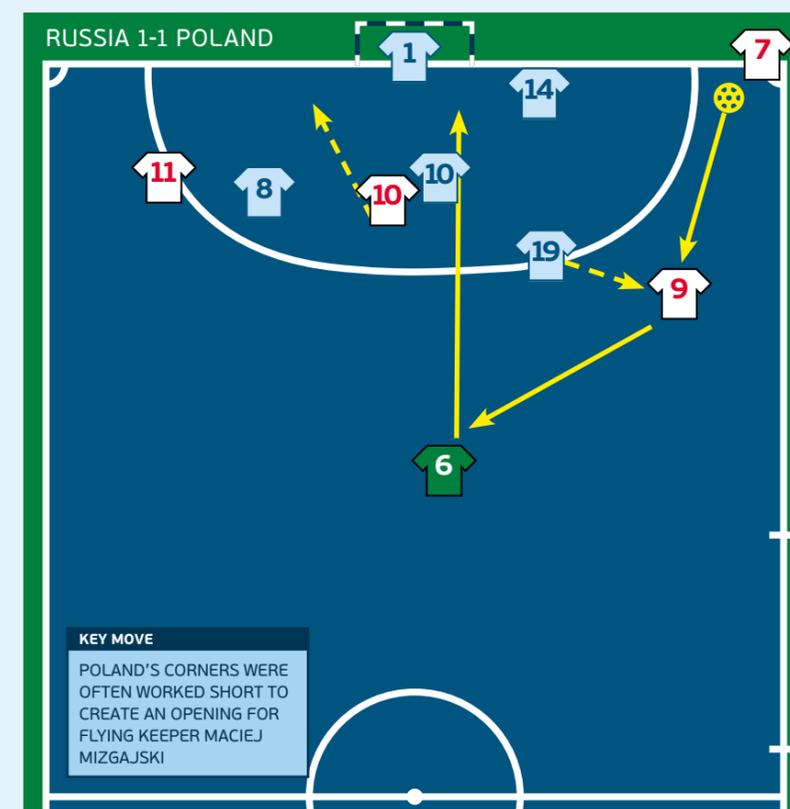
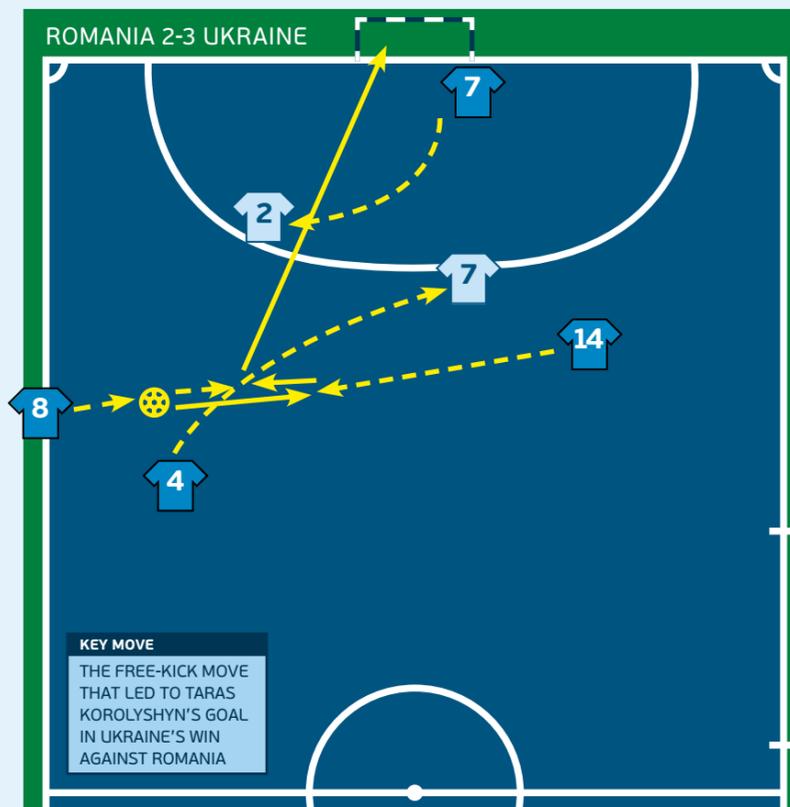
GOALS FROM DEAD-BALL SITUATIONS WERE UP BY NEARLY A THIRD

### Set-play goals

Another item of evidence to be thrown into the debate on the sharp downturn in goalscoring is that, in Slovenia, the percentage of goals derived from dead-ball situations rose from 21% to 30%. What's more, two of the three own goals were scored at corners – and, if they are included, the percentage rises to 32% and the number of goals scored in open play is reduced to 62 at an average of 3.1 per match. In Slovenia, 50 players wrote their names on the goalscoring chart, compared with 61 in 2016.

Only two goals were scored from penalties – both from the ten-metre mark, including the strike by Bruno Coelho that won the title for Portugal. No six-metre penalties were awarded and no goals were struck directly into the net at free-kicks. However, the value of training-session work on set plays was illustrated not only by the number of successes but also by the diversity among them.

For example, the technical observers commented on Ukraine's crucial opening goal scored 34 seconds before half-time during their comeback victory (from 0-2) against Romania. The diagram (above right) illustrates that Ukraine No7 Mykola Grytsyna ran back from an advanced position to block off Romania No2 Florin Matei while No4 Volodymyr



Razuvanov made a forward run to prevent lateral movement by Romania No7 Florin Ignat. Ukraine No14 Petro Shaturma ran towards the free-kick taker Taras Korolyshyn, received the ball, and touched it back to him in a position where the Ukraine No8 could direct his blockbuster shot along a clear route to the net.

But, as it was one of only four goals scored following a free-kick, it meant that the vast majority were derived from set-play deliveries from the wide areas, with kick-ins providing one-third of the set-play goals.

"It emphasised the importance of working on kick-ins in training," commented Orlando Duarte, "as you might only get eight or nine corners during a match." His view was statistically corroborated by an average of nine corners per team per match in Slovenia.

There was, once again, extensive use of the lofted corner, looking for a technically demanding volley from the area beyond the back post. The success rate, however, improved significantly on the 2016 ratio of one goal per 45.5 corners. In Ljubljana, the statistics worked out at one goal per 29.9 corners or, if the two own goals are included, one per 25.6.

During the knockout games, Portugal scored three from corners on the left during the quarter-final against Azerbaijan; it was a corner on the right that put them 2-1 ahead in the semi-final against Russia; and it was a quickly taken corner on the right that earned the latter their bronze medals against Kazakhstan.

Poland coach Błażej Korczyński said: "We score a lot from set plays or counters and not so many from positional attacks." He introduced a tactical novelty by sending on No6 Maciej Mizgajski (an outfielder practically unused in open play) as flying goalkeeper when Poland had corners in their favour. As the diagram (left) illustrates, the most frequent ploy was to play a short corner to draw defenders towards the flank – and then to pass to Mizgajski just outside the box, where he had greater possibilities in terms of finding shooting pathways towards the net.

### Open-play goals

In open play, combination moves were, again, the most fertile source of goals, accounting for 42%, as opposed to 35% in 2016. Amid the across-the-board decline in open-play goals, individual actions registered a sharp fall from 19 in Serbia to six in Slovenia. Long-range shooting, despite the performances by goalkeepers, continued to pay dividends, with the likes of Portugal's André Coelho, Kazakhstan's Douglas Junior or Spain's Pola hitting crucial goals from distance.

Curiously, Portugal provided the tournament's two headed goals against Romania and Azerbaijan – the latter as a result of a counterattack against opponents who were using the flying keeper. Even though the technical observers commented on the relative scarcity of classic counters from deep

positions, fast breaks of one description or another accounted for 17 of the tournament's goals. Some resulted from ball losses in mid-court, such as Romania's opening goal against Ukraine when Savio won possession and ran unopposed at goal. Four counterattacking successes came in matches involving France, including the fast combination response by Azerbaijan after a corner to France – which allowed them to take a 3-2 advantage. In the credit column for Pierre Jacky's team was the vertical counterattacking that caught Spain by surprise in their opening fixture. Russia, once again, underlined their counterattacking potential, notably when a through ball by goalkeeper Georgi Zamtaradze allowed Robinho to seal the 2-0 victory against the host nation.

### GOAL TYPE

| CATEGORY   | ACTION                | GUIDELINES                              | GOALS |
|------------|-----------------------|---|-------|
| SET PLAYS  | CORNERS               | Direct from or following a corner       | 12    |
|            | FREE-KICKS (DIRECT)   | Direct from a free-kick                 | 0     |
|            | FREE-KICKS (INDIRECT) | Following a free-kick                   | 4     |
|            | PENALTIES (6M)        | Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty) | 0     |
|            | PENALTIES (10M)       | Spot kick (or follow-up from a penalty) | 2     |
|            | KICK-INS              | Following a kick-in                     | 9     |
| OPEN PLAYS | COMBINATIONS          | Wall pass or combination play           | 27    |
|            | PASSING RUN           | Breakthrough in the middle              | 7     |
|            | SOLO PERFORMANCE      | Individual action                       | 6     |
|            | LONG-RANGE SHOTS      | Direct shot or shot and rebound         | 13    |
|            | DEFENSIVE ERRORS      | Mistake by defender or goalkeeper       | 8     |
|            | OWN GOALS             | Goal by the opponent                    | 3     |

**TOTAL**

**91**

### WHEN THE GOALS WERE SCORED

During the final tournament, 37 goals were scored in the first half and 51 in the second. As usual, the final five minutes were the most prolific, although the total of 17 was the lowest recorded at a 12-team final tournament. It could be interpreted as a reflection of increased fitness levels. One of the salient features was

one that had previously caught the eye at EURO 2012 in Croatia: only four goals were scored in the 11 to 15-minute segment. This may not be unrelated to the fact that 16 of the tournament's 61 time-outs were called during this period of play with consequent tactical repercussions.



Spain and Kazakhstan on the run

| MINUTES    | 2018* | 2016* | 2014* | 2012* | 2010* | 2007 | 2005 | 2003 |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|------|
| 1 - 5      | 13    | 7     | 10    | 11    | 10    | 8    | 5    | 4    |
| 6 - 10     | 9     | 15    | 15    | 15    | 14    | 5    | 10   | 10   |
| 11 - 15    | 4     | 14    | 11    | 4     | 9     | 9    | 8    | 8    |
| 16 - 20    | 11    | 18    | 16    | 11    | 15    | 14   | 13   | 8    |
| 21 - 25    | 10    | 18    | 17    | 17    | 14    | 15   | 13   | 6    |
| 26 - 30    | 12    | 15    | 14    | 19    | 18    | 10   | 8    | 11   |
| 31 - 35    | 12    | 16    | 13    | 11    | 17    | 15   | 12   | 10   |
| 36 - 40    | 17    | 25    | 24    | 19    | 30    | 7    | 18   | 20   |
| EXTRA TIME | 3     | 1     | 1     | 2     | -     | -    | -    | -    |
| TOTAL      | 91    | 129   | 121   | 109   | 127   | 83   | 87   | 77   |

\*12-TEAM FINAL TOURNAMENT

### NO ENTRY

#### HIGH-QUALITY GOALKEEPING CAUGHT THE EYE

Orlando Duarte and Javier Lozano had so many names on their shortlist that, at one point, the UEFA technical observers considered including three goalkeepers in their team of the tournament – as had, incidentally, the coaches of France, Portugal, Serbia and Ukraine. The other eight squads contained only two. Damir Puškar had impressed in the Slovenia goal – notably against Italy. Miodrag Aksentijević, combining crowd-pleasing showmanship with effective shot-stopping, might have earned a place, had he played more than two games. Roberto Menichelli might rue the fact that both produced outstanding performances against Italy, recording shot-stopping rates of 92.3% and 94.4% respectively. Elsewhere, Spain's Paco Sedano kept two clean sheets and was decisive in the semi-final shoot-out against Kazakhstan.

The table, based on data kindly provided by Serbian goalkeeping specialist Dušan Matić, shows the percentages of shots saved by keepers.

The excellent overall level of shot-stopping spoke highly of the work done by goalkeeping coaches, although contributions to attacking play were often less eye-catching. The exception to the rule was Kazakhstan's Higuita who, once again, combined the duties of keeper and flying keeper, pushing forward into midfield, passing intelligently, scooping passes over attackers' heads when pressed and even contributing a goal. On the other hand, there was inconsistency among keepers when it came to distributing the ball – and France goalkeeper Djamel Haroun was among those who had no qualms about relieving pressure by playing long – or out of play. Javier Lozano reiterated his long-standing concern that "keepers sometimes use the long throw just to get rid of the ball, to put it out of play and to oblige the opposition to start again versus a regrouped and reorganised defence." He and Orlando Duarte fully endorsed the view expressed by

### SAVE PERCENTAGE\*



91.4%  
Miodrag Aksentijević  
SERBIA



90.2%  
Georgi Zamtaradze  
RUSSIA



88.9%  
Higuita  
KAZAKHSTAN



88.1%  
Damir Puškar  
SLOVENIA



Georgi Zamtaradze was one of a number of keepers who impressed



87.5%  
Stefano Mammarella  
ITALY



86.3%  
Yevgen Ivanyak  
UKRAINE



86.2%  
Michał Kałuża  
POLAND



84.5%  
André Sousa  
PORTUGAL



82.1%  
Toni Tonița  
ROMANIA



81%  
Djamel Haroun  
FRANCE



78.7%  
Paco Sedano  
SPAIN



75%  
Rovshan Huseynli  
AZERBAIJAN

### GOALS WITH FLYING KEEPER ON COURT



\*NEMANJA MOMČILOVIĆ (SERBIA) 84.6%, DMITRII PUTILOV (RUSSIA) 90%, VÍTOR HUGO (PORTUGAL) 7.5% AND BEBE (PORTUGAL) 75% PLAYED ONE MATCH OR LESS

Azerbaijan coach Alesio: "The worry is if coaches encourage goalkeepers to play long at development levels – which means the kids don't learn to build from the back and play a passing game." Another concern for the technical observers was the tendency for goalkeepers to allege injury with a view to 'cooling' the play.

### IN-FLIGHT ENTERTAINMENT?

#### DEBATE RAGES ON OVER THE IMPACT OF THE FLYING KEEPER

In 2014, the total of goals scored with a flying goalkeeper on court had risen to 30, with 11 scored and 19 conceded. In 2016, only six of 19 power-play goals were scored by the team with the flying keeper. In 2018, eight were scored and ten conceded, meaning that 28% of the goals scored in open play came when a flying keeper was on court. It also meant that the number of goals scored in 'normal' open play was 46 in 20 matches. Sending on the flying keeper when chasing a result is seen as a legitimate and often entertaining tactical option. Debate is generated, however, when the option is, as Russia coach Sergei Skorovich commented, "employed to slow the game down in other situations. This is not good for the game."

"The use of power play can be terrible," Serbia coach Goran Ivančić added. "I once saw a game where the flying keeper was on for about 30 minutes and killed it as a spectacle. We have to find ways to avoid this."

At EURO 2018, just over 83 minutes were played with a flying keeper on court – roughly 10% of the tournament. Romania sent on the flying keeper after 10'30 when trailing Portugal 0-1 and after only 6'12 when leading Ukraine 1-0. Slovenia played out the last five minutes of the first half against Italy as a damage-limitation measure when struggling to remain only 0-1 behind. Azerbaijan deployed five outfielders eight times during the first periods against Portugal and Spain.



# Azerbaijan



| SQUAD | BORN | G | A | FRA  | ESP  | POR  | CLUB |
|-------|------|---|---|------|------|------|------|
|       |      |   |   | W5-3 | L0-1 | L1-8 |      |

| GOALKEEPERS      |                     |            |     |   |   |   |                               |
|------------------|---------------------|------------|-----|---|---|---|-------------------------------|
| 1                | Emin Kurdov         | 10/07/1984 |     | U | U | B | Ekol Baku                     |
| 12               | Rovshan Huseynli    | 03/04/1991 |     | 👤 | 👤 | 👤 | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS |                     |            |     |   |   |   |                               |
| 2                | Samir Hamzayev      | 01/08/1989 |     | U | U | U | Ekol Baku                     |
| 3                | Bolinha             | 19/02/1987 | 3   | 👤 | 👤 | 👤 | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 4                | Isa Atayev          | 07/08/1989 |     | U | B | U | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 5                | Fineo Araújo        | 10/04/1987 | 2   | 👤 | 👤 | 👤 | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 6                | Eduardo             | 14/10/1986 | 1 3 | 👤 | 👤 | 👤 | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 7                | Ramiz Chovdarov     | 28/07/1990 |     | U | B | B | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 8                | Rizvan Farzaliyev   | 01/09/1979 |     | B | 👤 | B | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 10               | Vassoura            | 26/04/1985 |     | B | B | B | Al Dhafra FC (UAE)            |
| 11               | Khatai Baghirov     | 15/08/1987 |     | U | B | B | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 13               | Everton Cardoso     | 04/12/1987 | 2   | 👤 | U | 👤 | Araz Naxçivan                 |
| 14               | Vitaliy Borisov     | 05/07/1982 |     | B | B | B | KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac (SRB) |
| 18               | Namig Mammadkarimov | 21/07/1980 |     | U | U | B | Araz Naxçivan                 |

G = goals; A = assists; 👤 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🚫 = sent off

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

**23'36** MINUTES  
Eduardo 19'34 / Vassoura 2'33 / Everton 1'29  
SCORED 0 CONCEDED 3

### FOULS

Suffered **11** AVE. PER GAME 3.7  
Conceded **18** AVE. PER GAME 6

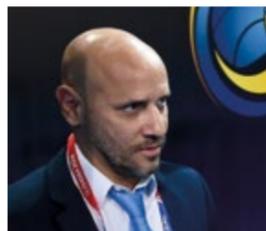
### CARDS

**3** **0**

### COACH

#### ALESIO DA SILVA

BORN 27/09/1968  
NATIONALITY Brazilian



|                        |           |                 |
|------------------------|-----------|-----------------|
| 12 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES | W4 D2 L6  | Winning %: 33.3 |
| 12 QUALIFYING MATCHES  | W10 D1 L1 | Winning %: 83.3 |
| 24 OVERALL COMPETITION | W14 D3 L7 | Winning %: 58.3 |

### TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

### KEY FEATURES

- Three-line defending; high pressing in 1-1-1-2 when chasing result
- Emphasis on zonal marking with positional rotation
- Classic 1-3-1 attacking; pivot aligning with ball on left to receive vertical pass
- Style inspired by Brazilian technique, tactical awareness, experience
- Patient build-up; good movements to open passing lines to pivot
- Wide variety of well-rehearsed set plays with block-offs in central zone
- Extensive use of flying goalkeeper – but no goals scored

### STATISTICS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>POSSESSION</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>56%</b>                      | <b>INTERCEPTIONS</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>96</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>32</b>     |
| IN OWN HALF 26.9%<br>IN OPP HALF 29.1%                                   | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 11<br>AVERAGE 3.7  |
| <b>BALLS LOST</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>69</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>23</b> | <b>BALLS RECOVERED</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>65</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>21.7</b> |
| IN OWN HALF<br>TOTAL 16<br>AVERAGE 5.3                                   | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 8<br>AVERAGE 2.7   |

**ATTEMPTS**  
TOTAL 88 | AVE. PER GAME 29.3



Ave. attempts per goal **14.7** | Woodwork **1**

Attempts against TOTAL **81** | AVE. PER GAME **27**



# France



| SQUAD | BORN | G | A | ESP  | AZE  | CLUB |
|-------|------|---|---|------|------|------|
|       |      |   |   | D4-4 | L3-5 |      |

| GOALKEEPERS      |                        |            |     |   |   |                        |
|------------------|------------------------|------------|-----|---|---|------------------------|
| 1                | Djamel Haroun          | 06/07/1983 |     | 👤 | 👤 | Roubaix AFS            |
| 12               | Ba El Maarouf Kerroumi | 01/06/1994 |     | U | U | Hérouville Futsal      |
| 16               | Joévin Durot           | 25/11/1985 |     | U | U | Futsal Roselies (BEL)  |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS |                        |            |     |   |   |                        |
| 2                | Sid Ahmed Belhaj       | 28/08/1992 |     | B | B | Acces Futsal Club      |
| 5                | Boulaye Ba             | 21/05/1993 |     | U | U | Kremlin Bicêtre Futsal |
| 6                | Kevin Ramirez          | 10/08/1987 |     | 👤 | 👤 | Acces Futsal Club      |
| 7                | Mickaël De Sa Andrade  | 14/08/1995 |     | B | B | Garges Djibson Futsal  |
| 8                | Azdine Aigoun          | 11/05/1987 | 1   | 👤 | 👤 | Kremlin Bicêtre Futsal |
| 10               | Abdessamad Mohammed    | 10/12/1990 | 2 1 | 👤 | 👤 | Acces Futsal Club      |
| 11               | Landry N'Gala          | 08/06/1993 | 1 1 | B | B | Garges Djibson Futsal  |
| 14               | Samir Alla             | 27/01/1985 | 1   | B | B | Hérouville Futsal      |
| 18               | Samba Kebe             | 04/12/1987 |     | B | B | Garges Djibson Futsal  |
| 19               | Adrien Gasmî           | 25/03/1986 | 1   | B | B | Kremlin Bicêtre Futsal |
| 20               | Souheil Mouhoudine     | 29/03/1995 | 2 2 | 👤 | 👤 | Acces Futsal Club      |

G = goals; A = assists; 👤 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🚫 = sent off

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

**3'34** MINUTES  
Mohammed 3'34  
SCORED 1 CONCEDED 1

### FOULS

Suffered **8** AVE. PER GAME 4  
Conceded **10** AVE. PER GAME 5

### CARDS

**1** **0**

### COACH

#### PIERRE JACKY

BORN 05/10/1960  
NATIONALITY French



|                        |            |                 |
|------------------------|------------|-----------------|
| 2 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES  | W0 D1 L1   | Winning %: 0    |
| 28 QUALIFYING MATCHES  | W15 D2 L11 | Winning %: 53.6 |
| 30 OVERALL COMPETITION | W15 D3 L12 | Winning %: 50   |

### TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

### KEY FEATURES

- 1-3-1 vertical attacking; direct supply to left-footed pivot on right
- Deep 1-1-2-1 defending; individual marking with little pressure on ball
- When attacked on flanks, opposite wing player quick to cover interior passing lines
- Simple game plans executed by athletic players with excellent individual skills
- Speed + anticipation = interceptions and rapid counterattacks
- Frequent use of long supply by goalkeeper Haroun; excellent shot-stopping
- Good variety of set plays; strong team ethic; aggressive, uninhibited attacking

### STATISTICS

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>POSSESSION</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>38.7%</b>                    | <b>INTERCEPTIONS</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>85</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>42.5</b>   |
| IN OWN HALF 11.1%<br>IN OPP HALF 27.6%                                   | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 6<br>AVERAGE 3   |
| <b>BALLS LOST</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>48</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>24</b> | <b>BALLS RECOVERED</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>53</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>26.5</b> |
| IN OWN HALF<br>TOTAL 5<br>AVERAGE 2.5                                    | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 7<br>AVERAGE 3.5   |

**ATTEMPTS**  
TOTAL 55 | AVE. PER GAME 27.5



Ave. attempts per goal **7.9** | Woodwork **1**

Attempts against TOTAL **66** | AVE. PER GAME **33**



# Italy



## SQUAD

BORN G A SRB SVN CLUB  
D1-1 L1-2

### GOALKEEPERS

|    |                    |            |    |    |                    |
|----|--------------------|------------|----|----|--------------------|
| 1  | Stefano Mammarella | 02/02/1984 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | Acqua e Sapone C/5 |
| 12 | Michele Miarelli   | 29/04/1984 | U  | U  | Luparense C/5      |

### OUTFIELD PLAYERS

|    |                    |            |    |    |                                  |
|----|--------------------|------------|----|----|----------------------------------|
| 2  | Marco Ercolessi    | 15/05/1986 | B  | 🇮🇹 | Pescara C/5                      |
| 3  | Gabriel Lima*      | 10/08/1987 | 🇮🇹 | I  | Acqua e Sapone C/5               |
| 4  | Sergio Romano      | 28/09/1987 | 🇮🇹 | B  | Pescara C/5                      |
| 5  | Fortino            | 30/04/1983 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR) |
| 6  | Humberto Honorio   | 21/07/1983 | 1  | 1  | Luparense C/5                    |
| 7  | Massimo De Luca    | 07/10/1987 | 1  | B  | Napoli C/5                       |
| 9  | Júlio De Oliveira  | 08/06/1991 | B  | B  | Acqua e Sapone C/5               |
| 10 | Alex Merlim        | 15/07/1986 | 1  | B  | Sporting Clube de Portugal (POR) |
| 11 | Cristiano Fusari   | 03/10/1991 | U  | U  | Kaos Futsal Ferrara              |
| 13 | Giuliano Fortini   | 08/09/1996 | U  | U  | SS Lazio C/5                     |
| 15 | Murilo             | 10/03/1989 | 🇮🇹 | B  | Marina CSA                       |
| 17 | Nicolò Baron       | 30/08/1996 | U  | U  | Feldi Eboli C/5                  |
| 18 | Fabrizio Calderoli | 22/01/1986 | B  | B  | Acqua e Sapone C/5               |

G = goals; A = assists; 🇮🇹 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇮🇹 = sent off  
\*Replaced by Fortino due to injury

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

**4'04**  
MINUTES  
Merlim 4'04  
SCORED 0 CONCEDED 1

### FOULS

Suffered **16**  
AVE. PER GAME 8  
Conceded **12**  
AVE. PER GAME 6

### CARDS

**6** **0**

## COACH

### ROBERTO MENICHELLI

BORN 14/01/1963  
NATIONALITY Italian



**18**  
FUTSAL EURO  
MATCHES

W11 D3 L4  
Winning %: 61.1

**17**  
QUALIFYING  
MATCHES

W16 D1 L0  
Winning %: 94.1

**35**  
OVERALL  
COMPETITION

W27 D4 L4  
Winning %: 77.1

## TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-0 attacking; 1-3-1 v Slovenia when Fortino drafted into squad
- Patient high-tempo attacking with diagonal passing to open play on flanks
- Good movement to separate opponents' lines, oblige them to chase ball
- Mostly 1-1-1-2 defending with aggressive high pressure by front line of two
- Direct supply from keeper to pivot when Fortino was in play
- Merlim the attacking spark; feints, varied dribbling solutions, shots at goal
- Well-drilled set plays, domination of possession not converted into goals

## STATISTICS

### POSSESSION

AVERAGE PER GAME

**59.1%**

IN OWN HALF 12.4%

IN OPP HALF 46.7%

### INTERCEPTIONS

TOTAL

**74**

AVERAGE PER GAME

**37**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 23

AVERAGE 11.5

### BALLS LOST

TOTAL

**43**

AVERAGE PER GAME

**21.5**

IN OWN HALF

TOTAL 5

AVERAGE 2.5

### BALLS RECOVERED

TOTAL

**62**

AVERAGE PER GAME

**31**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 11

AVERAGE 5.5

### ATTEMPTS

TOTAL **89** | AVE. PER GAME **44.5**

Blocked **31**

Goals On target Off target

Ave. attempts per goal **44.5**

Woodwork **1**

Attempts against TOTAL **39** | AVE. PER GAME **19.5**

Maximum **50**  
v SRB

Minimum **39**  
v SVN



# Kazakhstan



## SQUAD

BORN G A POL RUS SRB ESP RUS CLUB  
W5-1 D1-1 W3-1 D5-5\* L0-1

### GOALKEEPERS

|   |                 |            |   |   |    |    |    |               |
|---|-----------------|------------|---|---|----|----|----|---------------|
| 1 | Grigoriy Shamro | 31/05/1984 | U | U | U  | U  | U  | Aktobe        |
| 2 | Higuita         | 06/06/1986 | 1 | 1 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | Kairat Almaty |

### OUTFIELD PLAYERS

|    |                         |            |   |   |    |    |    |    |    |                     |
|----|-------------------------|------------|---|---|----|----|----|----|----|---------------------|
| 4  | Taynan                  | 12/02/1993 | 3 | 2 | B  | B  | B  | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | Kairat Almaty       |
| 5  | Serik Zhamankulov       | 18/11/1983 | 3 |   | B  | B  | B  | B  | B  | Kairat Almaty       |
| 8  | Dinmukhambet Suleimenov | 25/08/1981 | 1 |   | B  | B  | B  | B  | B  | Kairat Almaty       |
| 9  | Aleksandr Dovgan        | 09/02/1988 |   |   | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | B  | 🇮🇹 | Astana-Tulpar       |
| 10 | Chingiz Yesenamanov     | 10/03/1989 |   |   | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | Kairat Almaty       |
| 11 | Mikhail Pershin         | 19/10/1989 | 1 | 1 | B  | B  | B  | B  | B  | Kairat Almaty       |
| 12 | Pavel Taku              | 30/08/1988 | 1 |   | U  | B  | U  | B  | B  | Aktobe              |
| 14 | Douglas Junior          | 15/10/1988 | 4 | 7 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | Kairat Almaty       |
| 15 | Dauren Tursagulov       | 16/01/1996 |   |   | B  | B  | B  | B  | B  | Zhetysu Taldykorgan |
| 18 | Dauren Nurgozhin        | 21/05/1990 |   |   | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | B  | Kairat Almaty       |
| 19 | Albert Akbalikov        | 05/01/1995 |   |   | B  | B  | I  | I  | I  | Aktobe              |
| 20 | Birzhan Orazov          | 17/10/1994 | 1 |   | B  | B  | B  | B  | B  | Zhetysu Taldykorgan |

G = goals; A = assists; 🇮🇹 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇮🇹 = sent off  
\*After extra time; Spain win 3-1 on penalties

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

**0**  
MINUTES\*  
\*Regular keeper Higuita performed the flying role  
SCORED 0 CONCEDED 0

### FOULS

Suffered **37**  
AVE. PER GAME 7.4  
Conceded **41**  
AVE. PER GAME 8.2

### CARDS

**8** **1**

## COACH

### CACAU

BORN 16/10/1971  
NATIONALITY Brazilian



**10**  
FUTSAL EURO  
MATCHES

W5 D2 L3  
Winning %: 50

**8**  
QUALIFYING  
MATCHES

W5 D1 L2  
Winning %: 62.5

**18**  
OVERALL  
COMPETITION

W10 D3 L5  
Winning %: 55.6

## TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

## KEY FEATURES

- 1-4-0 or 0-3-2 attacking with keeper Higuita as fifth outfield player
- Higuita the tactical key; active in attacking moves; ready to shoot at goal
- Well-organised 1-1-1-2 or 1-2-2 zonal defending with sustained high pressing
- Occasional use of 1-3-1 structure in order to combat high press by opponents
- Douglas Jr and Taynan skilful, industrious organisers dictating tempo
- Strategy designed to prevent opposing teams from playing normal game
- Dangerous, well-drilled set plays; clear, well-designed game plans

## STATISTICS

### POSSESSION

AVERAGE PER GAME

**50.1%**

IN OWN HALF 18.2%

IN OPP HALF 31.9%

### INTERCEPTIONS

TOTAL

**237**

AVERAGE PER GAME

**47.4**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 51

AVERAGE 10.2

### BALLS LOST

TOTAL

**134**

AVERAGE PER GAME

**26.8**

IN OWN HALF

TOTAL 33

AVERAGE 6.6

### BALLS RECOVERED

TOTAL

**159**

AVERAGE PER GAME

**31.8**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 27

AVERAGE 5.4

### ATTEMPTS

TOTAL **208** | AVE. PER GAME **41.6**

Blocked **60**

Goals On target Off target

Ave. attempts per goal **14.9**

Woodwork **4**

Attempts against TOTAL **154** | AVE. PER GAME **30.8**

Kazakhstan's statistics include extra time against Spain

Maximum **47**  
v RUS, SRB

Minimum **30**  
v POL



# Poland



## SQUAD

BORN G A RUS KAZ CLUB  
D1-1 L1-5

### GOALKEEPERS

|    |               |            |   |   |                      |
|----|---------------|------------|---|---|----------------------|
| 1  | Michał Kuzuła | 22/07/1998 |   |   | Rekord Bielsko-Biała |
| 12 | Michał Widuch | 11/04/1992 | U | B | GAF Jasna Gliwice    |

### OUTFIELD PLAYERS

|    |                         |            |   |   |   |                      |
|----|-------------------------|------------|---|---|---|----------------------|
| 2  | Michał Kubik            | 07/05/1990 | 1 | B | B | Rekord Bielsko-Biała |
| 3  | Przemysław Dewucki      | 03/09/1988 |   | B | B | Piast Gliwice        |
| 4  | Mateusz Cyman           | 10/10/1991 |   | U | U | FC Toruń             |
| 5  | Robert Gładczak         | 10/04/1988 |   | B | B | Clearax Chorzów      |
| 6  | Maciej Mizgajski        | 16/01/1988 | 1 | B | B | Clearax Chorzów      |
| 7  | Mikołaj Zastawnik       | 02/09/1996 |   |   |   | Wisła Kraków         |
| 8  | Dominik Soleccki        | 17/07/1990 | 1 | B | B | Red Dragons Pniewy   |
| 9  | Tomasz Lutecki          | 01/09/1991 | 1 |   |   | GAF Jasna Gliwice    |
| 10 | Marcin Mikołajewicz     | 22/10/1982 |   |   |   | FC Toruń             |
| 11 | Artur Popławski         | 04/10/1988 |   |   |   | Rekord Bielsko-Biała |
| 13 | Tomasz Kriewel          | 05/11/1993 |   | S | B | FC Toruń             |
| 15 | Sebastian Wojciechowski | 17/01/1988 |   | B | B | Red Devils Chojnice  |

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

**6'37** MINUTES  
Kubik 3'26 / Dewucki 2'18 / Mizgajski 0'53  
SCORED 1 CONCEDED 0

### FOULS

Suffered **6** AVE. PER GAME 3  
Conceded **16** AVE. PER GAME 8

### CARDS

**4** **0**

## COACH

### BLAŻEJ KORCZYŃSKI

BORN 07/08/1978  
NATIONALITY Polish



**2** FUTSAL EURO MATCHES

W0 D1 L1  
Winning %: 0

**0** QUALIFYING MATCHES

W0 D0 L0  
Winning %: n/a

**2** OVERALL COMPETITION

W0 D1 L1  
Winning %: 0

## TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

## KEY FEATURES

- Generally 1-3-1 attacking with extensive use of direct supply to pivot
- 1-1-2-1 or 1-1-1-2 deep defending according to opponents' structure
- Sustained intense pressure on the ball in central and wide areas
- Individual defending with permutations in the front line
- Well-structured positional play with emphasis on intensity
- Well-rehearsed set plays an important weapon in attacking armoury
- Flying goalkeeper sent on as extra attacker at corners

## STATISTICS

### POSSESSION

AVERAGE PER GAME

**35.6%**

IN OWN HALF 6.3%

IN OPP HALF 29.3%

### INTERCEPTIONS

TOTAL

**101**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 12

AVERAGE PER GAME

**50.5**

AVERAGE 6

### BALLS LOST

TOTAL

**57**

IN OWN HALF

TOTAL 6

AVERAGE PER GAME

**28.5**

AVERAGE 3

### BALLS RECOVERED

TOTAL

**64**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 7

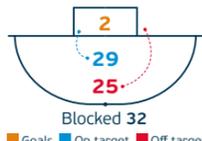
AVERAGE PER GAME

**32**

AVERAGE 3.5

### ATTEMPTS

TOTAL **86** | AVE. PER GAME **43**



Ave. attempts per goal **43** | Woodwork **0**

Attempts against TOTAL **65** | AVE. PER GAME **32.5**

Maximum **47** v RUS

Minimum **39** v KAZ



# Portugal



## SQUAD

BORN G A ROU UKR AZE RUS ESP CLUB  
W4-1 W5-3 W8-1 W3-2 W3-2\*

### GOALKEEPERS

|    |             |            |   |   |   |   |   |   |             |
|----|-------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|-------------|
| 1  | Bebe        | 19/05/1983 |   |   |   |   |   |   | Porto Salvo |
| 12 | André Sousa | 25/02/1986 | 1 | U |   |   |   |   | Sporting CP |
| 14 | Vítor Hugo  | 30/11/1982 |   | B | U | U | U | B | Braga/AAUM  |

### OUTFIELD PLAYERS

|    |                |            |   |   |   |   |   |   |                |
|----|----------------|------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|----------------|
| 2  | André Coelho   | 07/01/1986 | 2 | B | B | B | B | B | SL Benfica     |
| 3  | Tunha          | 24/10/1984 |   | B | B | U | B | B | Os Belenenses  |
| 4  | Nilson Miguel  | 10/05/1992 | 1 | 1 | B | B | B | B | Braga/AAUM     |
| 5  | Fabio Cecílio  | 30/04/1993 | 1 | 1 | B | B | B | B | SL Benfica     |
| 6  | Pedro Cary     | 10/05/1984 | 4 | 1 |   |   |   |   | Sporting CP    |
| 7  | Bruno Coelho   | 01/08/1987 | 6 | 3 |   |   |   |   | SL Benfica     |
| 8  | Márcio Moreira | 24/06/1990 |   | B | B | B | I | I | AD Fundão      |
| 9  | João Matos     | 21/02/1987 | 1 |   |   |   |   |   | Sporting CP    |
| 10 | Ricardinho     | 03/09/1985 | 7 | 4 |   |   |   |   | Inter FS (ESP) |
| 11 | Pany Varela    | 25/02/1989 | 1 | 1 | B | B | B | B | Sporting CP    |
| 13 | Tiago Brito    | 22/07/1991 | 1 | 1 | B | B | B | B | SL Benfica     |

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off; \*after extra time

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

**1'21** MINUTES  
Pedro Cary 1'21  
SCORED 1 CONCEDED 0

### FOULS

Suffered **26** AVE. PER GAME 5.2  
Conceded **36** AVE. PER GAME 7.2

### CARDS

**5** **0**

## COACH

### JORGE BRAZ

BORN 25/05/1972

NATIONALITY Portuguese



**16** FUTSAL EURO MATCHES

W10 D1 L5  
Winning %: 62.5

**11** QUALIFYING MATCHES

W10 D0 L1  
Winning %: 90.9

**27** OVERALL COMPETITION

W20 D1 L6  
Winning %: 74.1

## TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

## KEY FEATURES

- Mostly 1-4-0 attacking with long spells of possession; occasional use of pivot
- Aggressive 1-1-1-2 or 1-2-2 defending from 30m; intense pressure on ball carrier
- Ricardinho the artist, leader, playmaker, scorer; only short periods of rest
- Good use of overloads on one flank to leave Ricardinho 1v1 space on other
- Fluent high-tempo passing game with well-orchestrated off-ball movement
- Well-drilled set plays; frequent use of lofted corner for volley beyond far post
- Strong team ethic, mental resilience, belief in playing philosophy

## STATISTICS

### POSSESSION

AVERAGE PER GAME

**46.3%**

IN OWN HALF 23%

IN OPP HALF 23.3%

### INTERCEPTIONS

TOTAL

**222**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 62

AVERAGE PER GAME

**44.4**

AVERAGE 12.4

### BALLS LOST

TOTAL

**155**

IN OWN HALF

TOTAL 41

AVERAGE PER GAME

**31**

AVERAGE 8.2

### BALLS RECOVERED

TOTAL

**156**

IN OPP HALF

TOTAL 33

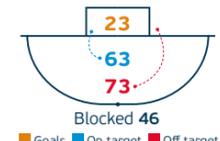
AVERAGE PER GAME

**31.2**

AVERAGE 6.6

### ATTEMPTS

TOTAL **182** | AVE. PER GAME **36.4**



Ave. attempts per goal **7.9** | Woodwork **5**

Attempts against TOTAL **117** | AVE. PER GAME **23.4**

Portugal's statistics include extra time against Spain

Maximum **49** v ESP

Minimum **26** v RUS



# Romania



| SQUAD | BORN | G | A | POR  | UKR  | CLUB |
|-------|------|---|---|------|------|------|
|       |      |   |   | L1-4 | L2-3 |      |

| GOALKEEPERS              | BORN       | G | A | POR | UKR | CLUB                      |
|--------------------------|------------|---|---|-----|-----|---------------------------|
| 1 Vlad Iancu             | 03/01/1978 |   |   | U   | U   | Informatica Timisoara     |
| 12 Toni Tonița           | 28/01/1992 |   |   |     |     | FC Deva                   |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS         |            |   |   |     |     |                           |
| 2 Florin Matei           | 08/12/1983 |   |   |     |     | FC Deva                   |
| 3 Marius Matei           | 12/03/1987 |   |   | B   | B   | FC Deva                   |
| 6 Emil Răducu            | 19/05/1984 |   |   | B   | B   | Luxol St Andrews FC (MLT) |
| 7 Florin Ignat           | 26/02/1982 | 1 |   |     |     | FC Deva                   |
| 8 Octavian Cires         | 27/01/1993 |   |   | U   | U   | United Galati             |
| 9 Felipe                 | 16/12/1992 |   |   | B   | B   | Informatica Timisoara     |
| 10 Dumitru 'Mimi' Stoica | 30/09/1981 | 1 |   | B   | B   | FC Deva                   |
| 11 Savio Valadares       | 30/01/1994 | 1 | 1 |     |     | Informatica Timisoara     |
| 15 László Szócs          | 10/10/1984 |   |   | B   | B   | SK Odorheiu Secuiesc      |
| 17 Alpar Csoma           | 22/03/1984 |   |   | S   | B   | FC Deva                   |
| 18 Paulo Ferreira        | 08/03/1985 | 1 |   |     |     | FC Deva                   |
| 20 Adrian Panzaru        | 06/11/1985 |   |   | B   | B   | FC Deva                   |

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

|              |                     |
|--------------|---------------------|
| <b>13'06</b> | Stoica 13'06        |
| MINUTES      | SCORED 1 CONCEDED 2 |

### FOULS

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Suffered <b>15</b> | Conceded <b>11</b> |
| Ave. per game 7.5  | Ave. per game 5.5  |

### CARDS

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   |   |
| 3 | 0 |

### COACH

#### ROBERT LUPU

BORN 28/10/1982  
NATIONALITY Romanian



|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 2 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES | W0 D0 L2        |
|                       | Winning %: 0    |
| 5 QUALIFYING MATCHES  | W2 D2 L1        |
|                       | Winning %: 40   |
| 7 OVERALL COMPETITION | W2 D2 L3        |
|                       | Winning %: 28.6 |

### TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

### KEY FEATURES

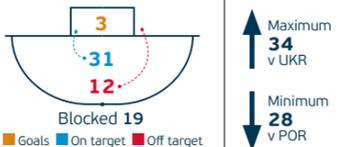
- Patient 1-4-0 attacking based on triangular passing movements
- Constant positional rotation with emphasis on retaining possession
- R Matei (2) the leader and catalyst; composed skills and passing
- Savio the attacking spearhead; solo skills, vertical runs on right flank
- Deep 1-1-2-1 defending; occasional spells of high pressing
- In general, aggressive pressure as from midfield
- Extensive use of low-tempo passing play with flying goalkeeper

### STATISTICS

| POSSESSION        | INTERCEPTIONS    |
|-------------------|------------------|
| AVERAGE PER GAME  | TOTAL            |
| <b>53.5%</b>      | <b>89</b>        |
| IN OWN HALF 23.6% | IN OPP HALF      |
| IN OPP HALF 29.9% | <b>13</b>        |
|                   | AVERAGE PER GAME |
|                   | <b>44.5</b>      |
|                   | AVERAGE          |
|                   | 6.5              |

| BALLS LOST       | BALLS RECOVERED  |
|------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL            | TOTAL            |
| <b>65</b>        | <b>60</b>        |
| IN OWN HALF      | IN OPP HALF      |
| TOTAL 24         | TOTAL 7          |
| AVERAGE PER GAME | AVERAGE PER GAME |
| <b>32.5</b>      | <b>30</b>        |
| AVERAGE          | AVERAGE          |
| 12               | 3.5              |

|   |
|---|
| <b>ATTEMPTS</b>                           |
| TOTAL <b>62</b>   AVE. PER GAME <b>31</b> |



|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ave. attempts per goal <b>20.7</b> | Woodwork <b>4</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|

Attempts against TOTAL **68** | AVE. PER GAME **34**



# Russia



| SQUAD | BORN | G | A | POL  | KAZ  | SVN  | POR  | KAZ  | CLUB |
|-------|------|---|---|------|------|------|------|------|------|
|       |      |   |   | D1-1 | D1-1 | W2-0 | L2-3 | W1-0 |      |

| GOALKEEPERS          | BORN       | G | A | POL | KAZ | SVN | POR | KAZ | CLUB                    |
|----------------------|------------|---|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-------------------------|
| 1 Georgi Zamtaradze  | 12/02/1987 |   |   |     | U   |     |     |     | MFK KPRF                |
| 12 Dmitrii Putilov   | 05/12/1994 |   |   | U   |     | U   | U   | U   | MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS     |            |   |   |     |     |     |     |     |                         |
| 4 Dmitri Lyskov      | 24/09/1987 |   |   | B   | B   | U   | B   | B   | Ugra Yugorsk            |
| 5 Romulo             | 28/09/1986 | 1 |   | B   | B   |     | B   | B   | Ugra Yugorsk            |
| 7 Ivan Milovanov     | 08/02/1989 |   |   | B   |     | B   | B   | B   | MFK Tyumen              |
| 8 Eder Lima          | 29/06/1984 | 5 | 3 |     |     |     |     |     | Magnus Futsal (BRA)     |
| 9 Sergei Abramov     | 09/10/1985 | 1 |   | B   | B   | B   | B   | B   | MFK Sinara Ekaterinburg |
| 10 Robinho           | 28/01/1983 | 1 |   |     | I   | B   |     |     | SL Benfica (POR)        |
| 11 Artem Niyazov     | 30/07/1996 |   |   | B   |     | B   | B   | B   | MFK KPRF                |
| 13 Sergei Abramovich | 15/01/1990 |   |   | B   | B   | B   | B   | B   | MFK Tyumen              |
| 14 Danil Davydov     | 23/01/1989 | 1 |   |     |     |     |     |     | Ugra Yugorsk            |
| 18 Andrei Afanasyev  | 23/05/1986 |   |   | B   | B   | U   | B   | U   | Ugra Yugorsk            |
| 19 Ivan Chishkala    | 11/07/1995 | 1 | 1 |     | U   |     |     |     | Ugra Yugorsk            |
| 20 Esquerdinha       | 18/11/1985 |   |   | B   | U   | B   | B   | B   | FC Barcelona (ESP)      |

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

### WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER

|             |                     |
|-------------|---------------------|
| <b>1'40</b> | Abramov 1'40        |
| MINUTES     | SCORED 1 CONCEDED 1 |

### FOULS

|                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| Suffered <b>35</b> | Conceded <b>25</b> |
| Ave. per game 7    | Ave. per game 5    |

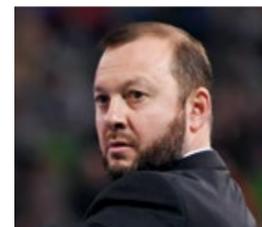
### CARDS

|   |   |
|---|---|
|   |   |
| 6 | 0 |

### COACH

#### SERGEI SKOROVICH

BORN 05/04/1973  
NATIONALITY Russian



|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 23 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES | W12 D6 L5       |
|                        | Winning %: 52.2 |
| 15 QUALIFYING MATCHES  | W15 D0 L0       |
|                        | Winning %: 100  |
| 38 OVERALL COMPETITION | W27 D6 L5       |
|                        | Winning %: 71.1 |

### TEAM SHAPES



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

### KEY FEATURES

- Three established quartets with occasional permutations between them
- 1-3-1 structure with Eder Lima as pivot; otherwise generally 1-4-0
- Aggressive individual (often deep) 1-1-2-1 defending; fast counterattacks
- Robinho the organiser, dictating tempo, prepared to go 1v1 in 1-1-3 attacks
- Emphasis otherwise on positional combination attacks rather than 1v1 skills
- Chishkala a powerful all-rounder; sound goalkeeping by Zamtaradze
- Strong collective spirit, athletic qualities, concentration and mental strength

### STATISTICS

| POSSESSION        | INTERCEPTIONS    |
|-------------------|------------------|
| AVERAGE PER GAME  | TOTAL            |
| <b>55.8%</b>      | <b>207</b>       |
| IN OWN HALF 24.3% | IN OPP HALF      |
| IN OPP HALF 31.6% | <b>40</b>        |
|                   | AVERAGE PER GAME |
|                   | <b>41.4</b>      |
|                   | AVERAGE          |
|                   | 8                |

| BALLS LOST       | BALLS RECOVERED  |
|------------------|------------------|
| TOTAL            | TOTAL            |
| <b>148</b>       | <b>128</b>       |
| IN OWN HALF      | IN OPP HALF      |
| TOTAL 24         | TOTAL 17         |
| AVERAGE PER GAME | AVERAGE PER GAME |
| <b>29.6</b>      | <b>25.6</b>      |
| AVERAGE          | AVERAGE          |
| 4.8              | 3.4              |

|  |
|--|
| <b>ATTEMPTS</b>                              |
| TOTAL <b>212</b>   AVE. PER GAME <b>42.4</b> |



|                                    |                   |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Ave. attempts per goal <b>30.3</b> | Woodwork <b>4</b> |
|------------------------------------|-------------------|

Attempts against TOTAL **130** | AVE. PER GAME **26**



# Serbia



**SQUAD** BORN G A SVN ITA KAZ CLUB  
D2-2 D1-1 L1-3

| GOALKEEPERS      |                      |            |    |    |    |                                |
|------------------|----------------------|------------|----|----|----|--------------------------------|
| 1                | Miodrag Aksentijević | 22/07/1983 | S  | 🇷🇺 | 🇷🇺 | MFK Tyumen (RUS)               |
| 12               | Nemanja Momčilović   | 15/04/1991 | 🇷🇺 | U  | U  | KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac        |
| 20               | Jakov Vulić          | 10/03/1992 | U  | U  | U  | KMF Nova Pazova                |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS |                      |            |    |    |    |                                |
| 2                | Marko Perić          | 01/12/1984 | S  | 🇮🇹 | 🇮🇹 | Napoli C/5 (ITA)               |
| 3                | Nikola Matijević     | 26/12/1991 | U  | U  | U  | KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac        |
| 4                | Stefan Rakić         | 22/11/1993 | 🇷🇺 | B  | B  | CS Informatica Timișoara (ROU) |
| 5                | Vladimir Milosavac   | 01/12/1985 | B  | B  | B  | KMF Internacional              |
| 6                | Denis Ramić          | 17/11/1994 | 1  | B  | B  | KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac        |
| 7                | Dragan Tomić         | 25/03/1991 | 2  | B  | B  | Beirut SC (LIB)                |
| 8                | Andrija Stanković    | 13/08/1989 | U  | U  | U  | FON                            |
| 9                | Marko Radovanović    | 10/10/1991 | B  | B  | B  | Club Louaize (LIB)             |
| 10               | Mladen Kocić         | 22/10/1988 | 2  | 🇷🇺 | 🇷🇺 | MFK Tyumen (RUS)               |
| 11               | Miloš Simić          | 12/08/1989 | 🇷🇺 | 🇷🇺 | 🇷🇺 | CS Informatica Timișoara (ROU) |
| 14               | Slobodan Rajčević    | 28/02/1985 | 1  | 🇷🇺 | 🇷🇺 | KMF Ekonomac Kragujevac        |

G = goals; A = assists; 🇷🇺 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇷🇺 = sent off

**WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER**

**5'59** MINUTES  
Kocić 5'59  
SCORED 2 CONCEDED 1

**FOULS**

Suffered **19** AVE. PER GAME 6.3  
Conceded **20** AVE. PER GAME 6.7

**CARDS**

**7** **0**

**COACH**

**GORAN IVANČIĆ**

BORN 17/12/1971  
NATIONALITY Serbian



|                       |                 |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 3 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES | W0 D2 L1        |
|                       | Winning %: 0    |
| 5 QUALIFYING MATCHES  | W3 D1 L1        |
|                       | Winning %: 60   |
| 8 OVERALL COMPETITION | W3 D3 L2        |
|                       | Winning %: 37.5 |

**TEAM SHAPES**



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

**KEY FEATURES**

- 1-3-1 attacks; left-footed pivot operating in centre or dropping wide on right
- Vertical attacking; direct supply to pivot or fast combinations on wings
- Kocić the main threat; excellent dribbling skills, aggressive finishing
- Deep 1-1-2-1 defending looking for chances to counterattack at speed
- Aksentijević an influential goalkeeper; agile, self-confident, good passing with hands
- Compact, well-organised unit with high level of technical abilities
- Strong team ethic; commitment; never-say-die mentality

**STATISTICS**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>POSSESSION</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>44.3%</b>                    | <b>INTERCEPTIONS</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>102</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>34</b>    |
| IN OWN HALF 12%<br>IN OPP HALF 32.2%                                     | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 7<br>AVERAGE 2.3   |
| <b>BALLS LOST</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>99</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>33</b> | <b>BALLS RECOVERED</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>58</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>19.3</b> |
| IN OWN HALF<br>TOTAL 18<br>AVERAGE 6                                     | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 3<br>AVERAGE 1   |

**ATTEMPTS**  
TOTAL 116 | AVE. PER GAME 38.7

Blocked 42  
Goals On target Off target  
Ave. attempts per goal 29 | Woodwork 5  
Attempts against TOTAL 97 | AVE. PER GAME 32.3

Maximum 49 v KAZ  
Minimum 26 v SVN



# Slovenia



**SQUAD** BORN G A SRB ITA RUS CLUB  
D2-2 W2-1 L0-2

| GOALKEEPERS      |                  |            |    |    |    |                        |
|------------------|------------------|------------|----|----|----|------------------------|
| 1                | Damir Puškar     | 03/09/1987 | 🇷🇺 | 🇮🇹 | 🇷🇺 | FK Dobovec             |
| 12               | Vid Sever        | 21/09/1989 | U  | U  | U  | FC Litija              |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS |                  |            |    |    |    |                        |
| 2                | Rok Mordej       | 03/03/1989 | 🇷🇺 | 🇮🇹 | S  | FK Dobovec             |
| 3                | Dejan Bizjak     | 21/04/1988 | U  | U  | U  | Lazio (ITA)            |
| 4                | Anže Širok       | 10/11/1989 | U  | U  | U  | KMN Oplast Kobarid     |
| 5                | Kristjan Čujec   | 30/11/1988 | 🇷🇺 | 🇮🇹 | B  | FK Dobovec             |
| 6                | Denis Totoškovič | 18/11/1987 | B  | B  | 🇷🇺 | FC Litija              |
| 7                | Igor Osredkar    | 28/06/1986 | 2  | 1  | 🇷🇺 | MNK Novo Vrijeme (CRO) |
| 8                | Teo Turk         | 15/03/1996 | U  | U  | U  | FC Litija              |
| 9                | Gašper Vrhovec   | 18/07/1988 | 1  | 🇷🇺 | B  | FC Litija              |
| 10               | Alen Fetić       | 14/10/1991 | 1  | B  | B  | FC Litija              |
| 11               | Tilen Štendler   | 08/10/1991 | U  | U  | U  | ASD Prata C/5 (ITA)    |
| 13               | Žiga Čeh         | 25/01/1995 | U  | B  | B  | Imola C/5 (ITA)        |
| 14               | Matej Fideršek   | 04/07/1991 | 2  | B  | B  | Tommy Split (CRO)      |

G = goals; A = assists; 🇷🇺 = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; 🇷🇺 = sent off

**WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER**

**16'19** MINUTES  
Čujec 5'21 / Fetić 10'58  
SCORED 0 CONCEDED 0

**FOULS**

Suffered **20** AVE. PER GAME 6.7  
Conceded **22** AVE. PER GAME 7.3

**CARDS**

**8** **0**

**COACH**

**ANDREJ DOBOVIČNIK**

BORN 14/10/1967  
NATIONALITY Slovenian



|                        |                 |
|------------------------|-----------------|
| 12 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES | W2 D1 L9        |
|                        | Winning %: 16.7 |
| 15 QUALIFYING MATCHES  | W12 D0 L3       |
|                        | Winning %: 80   |
| 27 OVERALL COMPETITION | W14 D1 L12      |
|                        | Winning %: 51.9 |

**TEAM SHAPES**



Attacking



Defending

→ Player movement

**KEY FEATURES**

- 1-3-1 attacking with high-lying pivot dropping wide
- 1-1-2-1 or 1-1-1-2 defending according to game situation
- Mixed marking system adopted v Italy: Osredkar shadowing Merlim
- Diagonal movements allowing pivot greater freedom to receive in wide areas
- Patient positional attacking; Vrhovec ready to use 1v1 skills
- Excellent goalkeeping by Puškar; Osredkar the tireless captain and team leader
- Strong team ethic, commitment, with key players taking on heavy workloads

**STATISTICS**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>POSSESSION</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>51.2%</b>                    | <b>INTERCEPTIONS</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>138</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>46</b>  |
| IN OWN HALF 15%<br>IN OPP HALF 36.3%                                     | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 24<br>AVERAGE 8  |
| <b>BALLS LOST</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>78</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>26</b> | <b>BALLS RECOVERED</b><br>TOTAL<br><b>90</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>30</b> |
| IN OWN HALF<br>TOTAL 12<br>AVERAGE 4                                     | IN OPP HALF<br>TOTAL 12<br>AVERAGE 4  |

**ATTEMPTS**  
TOTAL 110 | AVE. PER GAME 36.7

Blocked 41  
Goals On target Off target  
Ave. attempts per goal 27.5 | Woodwork 1  
Attempts against TOTAL 76 | AVE. PER GAME 25.3

Maximum 43 v SRB  
Minimum 30 v RUS



# Spain



**SQUAD** BORN G A FRA AZE UKR KAZ POR CLUB  
D4-4 W1-0 W1-0 D5-5\* L2-3\*\*

| GOALKEEPERS      |                |
|------------------|----------------|
| 1 Paco Sedano    | 02/12/1979     |
| 13 Jesús Herrero | 04/11/1986     |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS |                |
| 2 Carlos Ortiz   | 03/10/1983     |
| 3 Marc Tolrà     | 27/01/1991 2   |
| 4 Bebe           | 28/05/1990 1 3 |
| 5 Adolfo         | 19/05/1993 1   |
| 6 Solano         | 26/08/1991 1   |
| 7 Pola           | 26/06/1988 3   |
| 8 Lin            | 16/05/1986 1 2 |
| 9 Sergio Lozano  | 09/11/1988 1   |
| 10 Rafa Usín     | 22/05/1987     |
| 11 Miquelín      | 09/05/1985 1 3 |
| 14 Alex          | 12/03/1989 1   |
| 15 Joselito      | 01/03/1991 1 1 |

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off  
\*After extra time; Spain win 3-1 on penalties. \*\*After extra time

**WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER**

**3'48** MINUTES  
Bebe 3'48  
SCORED 1 CONCEDED 0

**FOULS**

Suffered **35** AVE. PER GAME 7  
Conceded **28** AVE. PER GAME 5.6

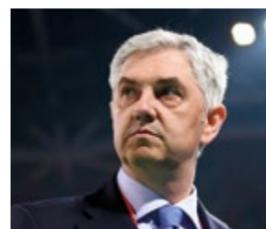
**CARDS**

**5** **0**

**COACH**

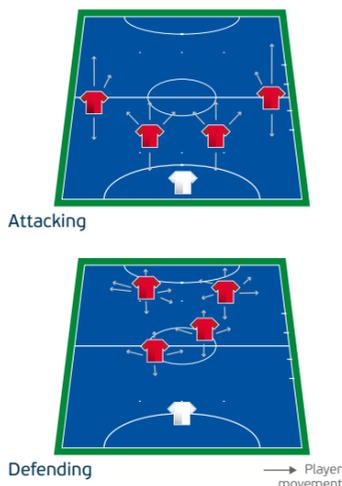
**JOSÉ VENANCIO LÓPEZ**

BORN 27/06/1964  
NATIONALITY Spanish



|                        |                              |
|------------------------|------------------------------|
| 30 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES | W22 D6 L2<br>Winning %: 73.3 |
| 15 QUALIFYING MATCHES  | W14 D1 L0<br>Winning %: 93.3 |
| 45 OVERALL COMPETITION | W36 D7 L2<br>Winning %: 80   |

**TEAM SHAPES**

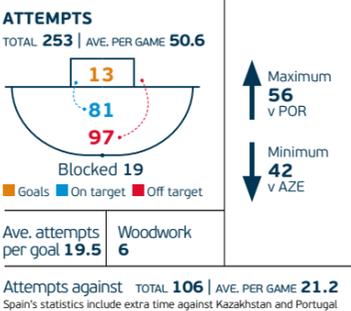


**KEY FEATURES**

- Alternate high-tempo 1-4-0 attacking or 1-3-1 with Alex or Solano as pivot
- High levels of individual technique; able to play in tight situations
- 1-1-1-2 defence; high pressure with aggressive first line of two players
- Good anticipation, interceptions; fast, dangerous counterattacking
- Possession game based on combinations, well-organised off-ball movements
- Use of long passing for dangerous penetration in wide areas
- Variety of inventive set plays; tactical awareness; big-match experience

**STATISTICS**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>POSSESSION</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>66.6%</b>                 | <b>INTERCEPTIONS</b><br>TOTAL <b>216</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME <b>43.2</b>   |
| <b>BALLS LOST</b><br>TOTAL <b>157</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME <b>31.4</b> | <b>BALLS RECOVERED</b><br>TOTAL <b>153</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME <b>30.6</b> |



# Ukraine



**SQUAD** BORN G A ROU POR ESP CLUB  
W3-2 L3-5 LO-1

| GOALKEEPERS              |                |
|--------------------------|----------------|
| 1 Yevgen Ivanyak         | 28/09/1982 1   |
| 12 Dmytro Lytvynenko     | 16/04/1987     |
| 17 Kyrylo Tsypan         | 30/07/1987     |
| OUTFIELD PLAYERS         |                |
| 4 Volodymyr Razuvanov    | 01/08/1992 1 1 |
| 5 Andriy Khamdamov       | 05/12/1993     |
| 7 Mykola Grytsyna        | 03/06/1989     |
| 8 Taras Korolyshyn       | 18/02/1993 2   |
| 9 Ruslan Sheremeta       | 15/01/1992     |
| 10 Serhiy Zhurba         | 14/03/1987     |
| 11 Mykhailo Grytsyna     | 19/10/1991     |
| 14 Petro Shoturma        | 27/06/1992 2 3 |
| 15 Mykola Bilotserkivets | 05/12/1986     |
| 18 Andriy Lysenko        | 06/03/1994 1   |
| 19 Oleksandr Pediash     | 04/03/1994 1   |

G = goals; A = assists; = in the starting five; B = started on the bench; U = unused sub; S = suspended; I = injured/ill; = sent off

**WITH FLYING GOALKEEPER**

**3'17** MINUTES  
Shoturma 3'17  
SCORED 1 CONCEDED 1

**FOULS**

Suffered **17** AVE. PER GAME 5.7  
Conceded **22** AVE. PER GAME 7.3

**CARDS**

**5** **0**

**COACH**

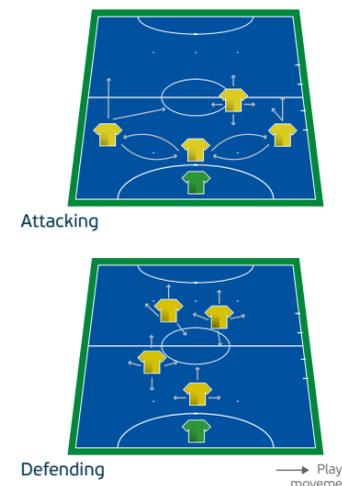
**OLEKSANDR KOSENKO**

BORN 18/01/1970  
NATIONALITY Ukrainian



|                        |                             |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 6 FUTSAL EURO MATCHES  | W2 D0 L4<br>Winning %: 33.3 |
| 6 QUALIFYING MATCHES   | W6 D0 L0<br>Winning %: 100  |
| 12 OVERALL COMPETITION | W8 D0 L4<br>Winning %: 66.7 |

**TEAM SHAPES**

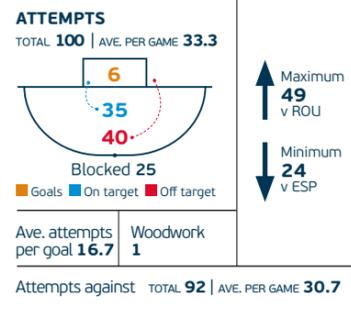


**KEY FEATURES**

- 1-3-1 attacking with constant high-tempo positional rotations
- 1-1-2-1 or 1-1-1-2 high-pressure defending based on individual marking
- Regular changes of quartet at approximately 3-minute intervals
- Athletic, well-organised, tactically disciplined squad of uniform quality
- High-tempo passing game with fast support for attacking pivot
- Fast transitions to defensive mechanisms pre-empting counterattacks
- Young team with strong work ethic, mental stability in all situations

**STATISTICS**

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>POSSESSION</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME<br><b>42.5%</b>                | <b>INTERCEPTIONS</b><br>TOTAL <b>123</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME <b>41</b>  |
| <b>BALLS LOST</b><br>TOTAL <b>97</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME <b>32.3</b> | <b>BALLS RECOVERED</b><br>TOTAL <b>93</b><br>AVERAGE PER GAME <b>31</b> |





**Event  
report**

# Fire and ice

As the snow fell and temperatures plummeted in Ljubljana, inside the Arena Stožice UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 was turning up the heat



Portugal fans made themselves heard throughout the tournament (left); despite the snow, the show went on at the Arena Stožice



"Thank you for an unforgettable week!" ran the banner headline on the cover of sports daily EkipaSN on 6 February. Slovenia had been knocked out of the Futsal EURO by Russia the night before, but it was a measure of how the team had been taken to heart that a sense of pride outweighed any disappointment.

Pride in what the players had achieved by beating two-time champions Italy to reach the quarter-finals; pride too in Slovenia's success at hosting a major senior UEFA competition for the first time. UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 had shown what Slovenia could accomplish from a sporting and organisational perspective, and those who experienced it now had a taste for more.

"Almost everyone in Slovenia can relate to playing 'football' in local schools with changing rooms meant for ten-year-olds," wrote EkipaSN columnist Andrej Miljković. "And most of us have played tournaments for a trophy where the organisers have forgotten to take off the €12.99 price tag. That's why UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 touched us so deeply, to the core of our sporting soul. That's why Ricardinho's magic touches get more clicks than ones from Messi or Ronaldo at the moment, and that's why the atmosphere when Slovenia beat Italy on Saturday was one of the best I have ever experienced in Slovenian halls and stadiums."

## 'EVERYTHING CAME TOGETHER LIKE A PUZZLE'

Tina Turkl was responsible for the commercial operations and the entertainment programme for the local organising committee (LOC) in Slovenia. Here she gives an insight into the efforts behind the scenes that ensured the tournament's success



"Since our preparations began more than a year before the finals, and each LOC member focused mainly on their own project, it was difficult to imagine how it would all turn out. When you walk through the empty arena and determine locations for each activity, you just can't picture how it will look, so it was amazing to watch everything come together like a puzzle. Being part of it was a great experience, thanks especially to the excellent atmosphere within our team – the LOC and UEFA – and the arena itself. The fans were among the stars of the tournament, and hearing the Slovenian anthem sung by a full arena was just amazing.

"This tournament and the activities around it raised awareness of futsal in the wider Slovenian public, mostly due to the exciting matches and fabulous

entertainment programme. One of our main tasks in the future will be to maintain the public's interest in futsal, and we will also look to raise the entertainment levels at other events.

"For me, two memories stand out. First, the excellent cooperation between all members of the project in UEFA and the LOC. It's not easy to work for 15 or more hours every day, but we came through it successfully – and this will serve as a fantastic basis for future projects.

"The second memorable aspect was the fans, who took to futsal and always created a great atmosphere. We didn't dare dream that the final could be sold out if Slovenia weren't involved, but the arena was full and lively. It was the ending that the tournament, the fans, the teams and the organisers deserved."



Slovenia's spirited performances were taken to heart by home fans

That moment was the culmination of over three years of planning. The Football Association of Slovenia (NZS) was selected to host the tournament in January 2015, and, from that point on, the focus was on delivering the best possible sporting experience from the grassroots up. For the first time, the promotional strategy was widened to include children, families, clubs and schools. Success would not be measured solely in goals scored, television audiences or tickets sold, but in the legacy that UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 would leave

behind – on the next generation, the sport itself and the host nation's capacity to organise future events.

For Slovenia, that social legacy would come in many forms: from the knowledge and expertise required to run such events, to increased participation in sport and the promotion of healthy living and cultural exchange between nations.

"We wanted to emphasise that football and futsal are games for everyone, not only top names, but also recreational players, children and older people," UEFA Futsal EURO project leader Pierre Lienhard said. "We were determined to



bring futsal to a wider public, especially in the host country, and show the games' appeals and strengths. For Slovenia, one objective was to increase the number of registered futsal players and futsal clubs – for example, encouraging football clubs to set up futsal teams. In addition to promoting futsal itself, we also looked to draw attention to issues such as gender equality, fair play and respect – and sustainability.

“Moreover, we focused on health, using the Slovenian association's My Game, My Life concept as a springboard. Our belief was that healthy living in a fun, sporting environment would send an important message to people young and old. Football and futsal are games that educate, develop and socialise – they are life improvers – and the Futsal EURO was a unique opportunity to draw attention to healthy lifestyle issues.”

Children were encouraged to get involved from the outset. In one local school, each class studied one of the competing nations and the pupils were thrilled in the run-up to the tournament when the players themselves dropped by.

Events around the tournament encouraged people to lead healthy lifestyles and play sport regularly, whatever their age or level. There was a special focus on the importance of exercise to children living in cities, with youngsters from schools near the Arena Stožice given match tickets to further encourage participation. Meanwhile, a sustainability guide highlighted the efforts made to ensure the EURO was environmentally friendly, and to educate readers on what can be done to preserve the natural environment.

The day before the semi-finals, children were given a chance to show their skills in the arena itself on a special futsal grassroots day. Futsal enthusiasts in the wider community were invited to play on the official Futsal EURO 2018 court at the Arena Stožice, with the accent placed on taking part and enjoying the game rather than simply winning. Along with boys' and girls' teams, Special Olympics Slovenia (SOS) players and veterans were involved, with the Heart Society (Društvo za srce) also giving a presentation of walking football for people over 60.

On an organisational level, the

Kids took to the court on Futsal Grassroots Day, with Slovenia coach Andrej Dobovičnik (right) in attendance

emphasis fell on encouraging the hosts to take responsibility, to own the Futsal EURO and set their own goals, and to motivate, empower and show the highest standards off the pitch as well as on it. Now equipped with the tools to take on even bigger events in the future, the NZS has already bid to host the 2021 UEFA European Under-21 Championship final tournament. That's why Slovenia's disappointment at losing out to Russia, though keenly felt, was not the end of the story. For Slovenia, the atmosphere generated by over 10,000 fans in the Arena Stožice that night may just have been the start of something even bigger.



## #EQUALGAME

UEFA'S NEW RESPECT CAMPAIGN WAS A PROMINENT FEATURE OF THE UEFA FUTSAL EURO

#EqualGame was launched at the start of the 2017/18 season to bring a fresh new dimension to UEFA's promotion of diversity, inclusion and accessibility, and it made a mark at UEFA Futsal EURO 2018. LED advertising boards around the court prominently displayed the slogan, which also featured on flags held by children on the court before each game.

#EqualGame shines a spotlight on the incredible diversity of European football, and highlights certain key elements of UEFA's social responsibility strategy. This strategy encompasses the promotion of diversity, peace and reconciliation, football for all abilities, health, child safeguarding and respect for the environment, and the campaign against discrimination, racism and violence. That message was reinforced by the stadium announcer before each game. Players, meanwhile, wore Respect badges on their shirts, and Respect was also displayed on substitute bibs and captain armbands.

The Arena Stožice was also tobacco-free throughout the tournament, with prominent signs reminding fans to respect the no-smoking policy. In the spirit of Total Football Total Access, the Arena also fulfilled all accessibility requirements, reinforcing UEFA's commitment to ensuring accessibility to matches, in particular for disabled persons, so that many more can enjoy the live experience.



Fans packed the Arena Stožice for the hosts' three games and also the final; Miguelín (below) visited Ljubljana ahead of the tournament

# Make some noise

An all-star cast helped get the ball rolling, then affordable ticket prices and a brilliant atmosphere kept fans coming back for more

For the second successive UEFA Futsal EURO, attendances passed the 100,000 mark as fans flocked to the Arena Stožice to take in the action live. Attendances averaged 5,097 per game and Slovenia's quarter-final against Russia drew the biggest crowd with 10,369 fans packing out the stadium. The deafening roars of "Mi, Slovenci" (We, Slovenians) and "Kdor ne skače, ni Sloven'c!" (If you don't bounce, you're not Slovenian) provided the soundtrack to the match, even as Russia ran out 2-0 winners. Three other games reached five figures, with 10,212 watching the hosts' opening-

day draw with Serbia, 10,342 on hand to witness Slovenia's memorable win against Italy, and 10,352 for the final between Spain and Portugal.

Tickets were competitively priced in two categories at €5 and €7 with the aim of making the experience affordable for families. One ticket provided access to both games each matchday and, in total, 39,989 were purchased – a fantastic return in a host city with a population of under 300,000. Promotional tickets were also offered to local children in a number of grassroots initiatives designed to increase participation and involvement.

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE**

**101,934**

**AVERAGE PER GAME**

**5,097**



Futsal may not have been a mainstream sport in Slovenia when Ljubljana was chosen to host the finals, but a buzz soon took hold thanks to a promotional campaign designed to raise awareness and generate interest.

The first major event came with a year to go, when former football and futsal stars Milenko Ačimović and Mile Simeunović were announced as tournament ambassadors in the company of Serbia legend Dejan Stanković, ambassador at UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 in Belgrade. That symbolic bridge between the two host cities was reinforced as the countdown continued, notably on 26 June 2017 when children from Serbia and Slovenia came together in a giant relay to transfer a tournament ball from downtown Ljubljana to the Arena Stožice. In all, 174 people took part as the ball was juggled, dribbled and passed for 76 minutes over the 7km journey to the stadium.

UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 player of the tournament and Spain star Miguelín also got involved, wowing fans with his skills at the countdown clock in downtown Ljubljana 218 days before kick-off. "The tournament has been great, I'm very proud to have been chosen as an ambassador," he later reflected. "These events are huge in terms of promoting the sport of futsal, increasing awareness, and helping people realise what an enjoyable and dynamic sport it is. For me, it's key to get the media more and more on board, so that football associations everywhere continue to invest more time and money into the sport."

If Miguelín's presence caused a stir, so too did the UEFA Futsal EURO trophy tour. For two weeks from 14 September, the trophy visited 12 Slovenian towns, with 1,525 people attending events that made prime-time news bulletins. The trophy returned to Ljubljana on 29 September for the final tournament draw at Ljubljana Castle. Another famous face, former Olympic and world champion alpine ski racer Tina Maze, was on hand to help decide the finals line-up. "I'm always happy to see athletes thrive in any sport. That's why I hope we can take a step forward with futsal," she said. With the whole country getting behind the sport, UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 was about to achieve just that.



# New partnerships for a new cycle

The tournament's six sponsors and its new licensee provided important support and expertise during the competition

UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 was the first event in the 2018–2022 cycle for the European governing body, and it gave an opportunity for new partners such as Booking.com and Volkswagen to experience being a part of the UEFA family.

At the same time, long-term partners such as Mondo continued their commitment and investment in

UEFA futsal tournaments. The support and expertise of the six sponsors (four global and two national) and new licensee Fanatics played a pivotal role in the tournament's success.

The Futsal EURO served as an excellent platform for the global partners to showcase their brands and reach a local audience on site as well as international audiences via television and digital

coverage. The national sponsors assisted in raising awareness about the event within Slovenia (including promotion through their various networks), and this was reflected in the strong attendances.

The commercial partners contributed with their enthusiastic support and the activations that proved another noteworthy factor in the positive impact of the tournament.

Booking.com

Hisense

MONDO



I FEEL SLOVENIA

## GLOBAL SPONSORS

Booking.com

Booking.com announced a partnership with UEFA for all national-team competitions in October 2017, and the Futsal EURO marked the first opportunity to put it into action. As the official travel and accommodation partner, Booking.com offered fans a platform for booking places to stay in Slovenia, and there were touchpoints integrated throughout UEFA.com/futsaleuro, futsaleuro2018.si and the Eventim ticketing portal, ensuring a full service. To reinforce this new partnership, Booking.com invested in commercial airtime around key markets in Spain, the USA and France. On site, it offered a €25 discount on travel for fans booking via its website, and it also conveyed its 'Booking.Yeah' message via perimeter boards, giant screens and on UEFA's Facebook page.



Hisense



Hisense began its second cycle as a UEFA partner by focusing on its strategy of raising brand awareness across Europe. In this respect, the Futsal EURO video section on UEFA.com proved an ideal opportunity, with many fans visiting the site to see highlights, goals and skills from this fast-paced competition. In addition, on social media, the Hisense Goal of the Day proved particularly successful. Away from the digital space, Hisense activated its basic rights and used tickets and hospitality to engage with key clients and consumers.

MONDO

Mondo has been a partner of the UEFA Futsal EURO since 2007, and this year it added colour to the tournament by installing a bright and cheerful green-and-blue flooring for the event, using the latest scientific developments to provide a surface conducive to fast-paced, skilful matches. It also supplied the goals and nets. In addition, Mondo activated its global partnership through giant screen ads, LED boards, tickets and participation in the official tournament programme.





Volkswagen kicked off its first event as a partner of UEFA national-team football with a number of eye-catching activations centred around its e-mobility products and services. At the Arena Stožice, fans had the opportunity to book a test drive as well as show their support using an augmented reality (AR) photo booth (left). On the pitch, the official match ball carrier programme was delivered successfully at each game and VW's 'Electrifying Performance' tagline appeared prominently across the LED systems. The automotive company also reached people via its 'e-ball' viral campaign and association with the official photo section on UEFA.com.

## NATIONAL SPONSORS



Amicus is a leader of outdoor advertising in Slovenia. As part of its relationship with UEFA, it received product category exclusivity, LED board placement and VIP/Cat 1 tickets. In return, the company offered advertisement placements for the Futsal EURO on 150 billboards in Ljubljana and right across Slovenia.



I FEEL SLOVENIA

The Slovenian Tourist Board (STB) was an enthusiastic participant in the Futsal EURO. Taking advantage of the possibilities presented by partnering with the event, it displayed its brand on LED boards and giant screen ads in the arena to more than ten countries broadcasting the matches. Additionally, its mascot Trigi proved hugely popular with fans at the venue and was a key part of the half-time and in-match entertainment. The STB also issued small promotional flags (premiums) to spectators and featured in the official tournament programme.

## LICENSING



For this latest edition of the Futsal EURO, UEFA had a new partner in charge of the management of the official fan shops at Ljubljana's Arena Stožice. Fanatics, a global leader in licensed sports merchandise, sought to provide spectators with the best possible access to the official tournament merchandise by installing multiple sales points at the venue. There were products on sale at specially branded UEFA Futsal EURO corners on each floor of the arena, and Fanatics developed a range specifically for the event, comprising clothing items as well as official adidas match balls, replica balls and mini-balls.

# Global reach

UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 was enjoyed by television audiences around the world – and a growing number of viewers on UEFA's own digital platforms

More than just a thrilling spectacle, UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 also proved a ground-breaking event in broadcasting terms. For the first time, UEFA struck co-exclusive digital media rights in certain territories, allowing the action to be enjoyed via multiple platforms. Throughout the whole of the Balkan region, which included host nation Slovenia, as well as in Russia, UEFA appointed official broadcast partners while also carving out the ability to stream games 'over the top' (OTT) via UEFA TV and UEFA.com. In addition, every match was shown via these channels in countries where broadcast rights were not sold, giving the tournament truly global coverage for the first time. This approach proved extremely successful, with UEFA TV receiving a total of over 22m minutes in watch time, generated by over 1.3m views. Indeed, the final between Portugal and Spain yielded 6,110,890 watch-time minutes and 303,984 views alone – a remarkable increase compared to UEFA Futsal EURO 2016 (1,674,675 minutes watched; 83,282 views).





### SPORTKLUB DELIVERS

UEFA's TV and video production team appointed SportKlub as the host broadcaster and they delivered full coverage of each of the 20 matches, utilising a ten-camera plan including crane cameras, super-slow-motion cameras, mini-cameras and remote beauty cameras, providing a varied view of every kick.

Overseeing the process was SportKlub's production manager, Zoran Zoričić, who applied his working knowledge of previous UEFA events such as UEFA Champions League matches, albeit futsal makes different demands. "The difference with football is that everything is happening in a smaller area," he explained. "The lighting is different, there's a smaller number of players, the game is faster and it requires much more intensity from the players. Our camera crew have to react really quickly and maintain focus at all times."

The impressive end product was largely possible due to the work of appointed technical supplier DVB, as well as the satellite transmission provided by the European Broadcasting Union (EBU). The coverage of the tournament was facilitated also by a production and editorial workshop held by UEFA in the lead-up.

The host broadcaster likewise received support from UEFA's on-site unit as well as from UEFA's team at headquarters in Nyon, Switzerland. In addition, the team supplied content to the broadcasters in the form of promotional trailers, footage of the host city, footage of the trophy and archival footage from past tournaments.

The tournament drew the attention of broadcasters across the globe. Unilateral broadcast partner Fox Sports Italy also provided coverage on-site throughout the group stage, while Match TV Russia and RTP Portugal joined for the semi-finals and final. More than a dozen broadcast partners received the world feed signal to take the tournament live to their respective nations.

### BROADCAST NETWORK

| TERRITORY                            | PARTNER                                |                    |
|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Europe                               | <b>Azerbaijan</b>                      | Saran Media        |
|                                      | <b>Balkan region</b>                   | SportKlub          |
|                                      | <b>France</b>                          | L'Équipe 24/24 SAS |
|                                      | <b>Italy</b>                           | Fox                |
|                                      | <b>Kazakhstan</b>                      | Khabar             |
|                                      | <b>Latvia</b>                          | SIA Best4Sport TV  |
|                                      | <b>Nordics</b>                         | MTG                |
|                                      | <b>Poland</b>                          | Polsat             |
|                                      | <b>Portugal</b>                        | RTP                |
|                                      | <b>Romania</b>                         | Pro TV             |
|                                      | <b>Russia</b>                          | Match TV           |
| Outside Europe                       | <b>Spain</b>                           | Discovery          |
|                                      | <b>Turkey</b>                          | Saran Media        |
|                                      | <b>Ukraine</b>                         | TRBC Ukraine       |
|                                      | <b>Brazil</b>                          | Globo              |
|                                      | <b>China</b>                           | Super Sports       |
|                                      | <b>Latin America</b>                   | ESPN               |
|                                      | <b>Middle East and Northern Africa</b> | beIN Sports        |
| <b>USA (Spanish language rights)</b> | Univision                              |                    |
| <b>USA</b>                           | ESPN                                   |                    |

### TV STILL KING

These figures underlined the growing importance of being able to reach fans OTT, but television still dominated, with an impressive 20 official broadcast partners covering games in over 100 territories worldwide. Even without a pan-European broadcast partner for this edition, TV viewing figures were still high, with the cumulative audience for the entire tournament reaching 30.4m. That included a group stage peak of just under 0.5m viewers for the highest performing game, between Ukraine and Portugal.

### PRIME-TIME PORTUGAL

The stand-out performers both on the court and on TV were Portugal. The UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 champions pulled in an average group stage match audience of 406,400. This was followed up by Portuguese broadcasters RTP1

attracting 1.5m viewers during the final – more than any futsal match previously shown in the country, and 165,000 more viewers than for the 2017 UEFA Europa League decider.

### KEY MARKETS TUNE IN

UEFA Futsal EURO debutants France also enjoyed a strong following, with L'Équipe receiving 555,000 viewers across their two group stage games. There was also cause for celebration for host broadcaster SportKlub, who achieved an average audience share of 8.4% during the group stage – a staggering 12 times higher than their typical prime-time yield. Meanwhile, Spanish live free-to-air channel DMAX attracted just under 600,000 viewers for the final. That represented a 34% increase on Spain's four previous finals, and the highest audience on the channel since March 2017.

# 1.3M

THE TOURNAMENT RECEIVED A TOTAL OF 1.3M VIEWS ON UEFA TV

# 30.4M

THE CUMULATIVE TV AUDIENCE FOR THE ENTIRE TOURNAMENT REACHED 30.4M

# 1.5M

PORTUGUESE BROADCASTERS RTP1 ATTRACTED 1.5M VIEWERS DURING THE FINAL

# Follow the leader

Record numbers kept on top of the action on UEFA.com and across the competition's social media channels

"Congratulations guys, congratulations Portugal!" Cristiano Ronaldo posted on Facebook as Jorge Braz's side celebrated their UEFA Futsal EURO 2018 triumph.

The Real Madrid CF star may not have been in Slovenia to savour the moment, but like millions of others across the world he was able to keep up to date via UEFA's communications channels. And it was a UEFA photo of Ricardinho lifting the trophy that he used to illustrate his post.

Coverage of the tournament was delivered by UEFA.com, with on-site reporters and photographers providing expert commentary and the highest-quality images. Reporting of each match was focused on the individual MatchCentres, which were available in seven languages, and the games were also streamed live.

The website delivered on its promise to be the premier destination for UEFA Futsal EURO content. There were 1.4m visits to UEFA.com's Futsal EURO section during the tournament – an increase of 14% on UEFA Futsal EURO 2016, with 67.9% of them from a mobile device. France proved the biggest draw on their debut, attracting the highest audience of any of the competing nations despite bowing out after just two matches. France accounted for nearly 300,000 visits and, combined with the audience from Portugal, Spain and Italy, was responsible for 56.2% of all tournament traffic.

The goal on social media was to make the content fun and engaging, which was achieved through a variety of posts including the popular Goal of the Day, animations and skill challenges. These prompted more than 3m engagements (likes, comments, shares) and almost 10m video views. By the end of the tournament, UEFA's



## HONOURS EVEN

HAVING HELPED INSPIRE PORTUGAL'S UEFA EURO 2016 SUCCESS, CRISTIANO RONALDO TOOK TO SOCIAL MEDIA TO PRAISE HIS COMPATRIOTS' TRIUMPH.

dedicated futsal social media channels had attracted 37,000 new followers.

The communications team also helped increase the social capital of UEFA's partners through relevant, audience-focused content, promoted the broadcast partners to encourage people to tune in, and supported the local organising committee in their promotional goals. Photography and video content was also made available to the competing teams to aid their communications output.

The 56-page official printed tournament programme, meanwhile, complemented the digital output in helping promote the competition.



Russia pivot Eder Lima takes a selfie with fans at the Arena Stožice

# 1.4M

VISITS TO UEFA.COM'S FUTSAL EURO SECTION – AN INCREASE OF 14% ON UEFA FUTSAL EURO 2016

# 37k

NEW FOLLOWERS ACROSS UEFA FUTSAL'S SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

# 10M

VIDEO VIEWS ACROSS UEFA'S SOCIAL MEDIA CHANNELS

## ROLL OF HONOUR

|      |          |
|------|----------|
| 2018 | Portugal |
| 2016 | Spain    |
| 2014 | Italy    |
| 2012 | Spain    |
| 2010 | Spain    |
| 2007 | Spain    |
| 2005 | Spain    |
| 2003 | Italy    |
| 2001 | Spain    |
| 1999 | Russia   |
| 1996 | Spain    |



Tunha enjoys his moment with the trophy



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