



UEFA  
WOMEN'S  
**UNDER17**<sup>TM</sup>  
CHAMPIONSHIP



**European Women's Under-17 Championship**  
**Final round 2012 – Nyon, Switzerland**

# TOURNAMENT

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The final tournament of the European Women's Under-17 Championship was, for the fifth time, staged at the Stade de Colovray, adjacent to UEFA's headquarters complex in Nyon. The emphasis was on creating a festive grassroots atmosphere at an event staged in a family-friendly format. Tickets for the four games were distributed free of charge. The matches attracted a cumulative audience of 3,300 spectators, among them a large number who had travelled from nearby France to support their team.

The final tournament was staged during EURO 2012 and the focus on the events in Poland and Ukraine inevitably had an impact. The semi-finals, played on Tuesday 26 June, were scheduled for 11.00 and 15.00, while the third-place play-off and the final kicked-off at 11.00 and 14.30 on Friday 29 June. Both dates were selected to coincide with rest days at EURO 2012 and the two matches on the Friday were televised live by Eurosport to a pan-European audience.

The objective, however, was to maximise the regional impact of the final tournament and to use it as a promotional tool for grassroots football. Pupils from 11 schools in the region were invited to watch matches and to participate in top-class football training sessions run in parallel with the Under-17 tournament. Skill stations were set up in the Colovray complex, and small-sided matches were organised. A disc jockey from local radio station and official sponsor Rouge FM contributed to the festive atmosphere, as did adidas, who supplied one of their XXL inflatable human football tables. The schoolchildren were also given a guided tour of the UEFA headquarters and the chance to have their pictures taken with some famous silverware, such as the UEFA Champions League trophy.

The profile of the final tournament was raised by the presence of famous Swiss footballers. Ramona Bachmann, who wore the Swiss shirt at the European Women's Under-19 Championship finals in 2009 and was voted into UEFA's all-star squad for the tournament, acted as ambassador for the Under-17 finals. On the Tuesday, Marie-Andrea Egli, Rahel Graf (both at SC Kriens) and Martina Moser (VfL Wolfsburg) took part in the skill sessions, which former men's international goalkeeper Pascal Zuberbühler also helped to run – and signed autographs along with Ramona Bachmann. *"When I was this age,"* he commented, *"we never had the chance to do these sorts of activities and I think it's fantastic that UEFA organises this type of event. It's very important for the future of Swiss football."*

This was a pertinent observation, bearing in mind that the Swiss Under-17 team had reached the final tournament for the first time, to compete in the semi-finals with the 2011 silver medallists, France. It was a baptism of fire for Brigitte Steiner's team, and the statistics of 25 goal attempts by the French to four by the Swiss give a clear indication of the visitors' dominance. Yet it was Switzerland who went ahead in the 13th minute, when the French defence struggled to deal with a right-wing cross by

### IMPRESSUM

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### Editorial Team:

Andy Roxburgh  
(UEFA Technical Director)  
Graham Turner

### Production Team:

André Vieli  
Dominique Maurer  
UEFA Language Services

### Graphics:

Olé Andersen

### Technical Observers:

Béatrice von Siebenthal

### Setting:

Atema Communication SA, CH-Gland

### Printing:

Artgraphic Cavin SA, CH-Grandson

# OVERVIEW



Barla Deplazes and Carmen Pulver struck the loose ball powerfully into the roof of the net. The French coach, Francisco "Paco" Rubio, had spoken about his players being "under pressure because of the importance of the match" and having difficulties in "playing unstressed". The question after the Swiss goal was whether stress and anxiety levels would rise even further. The answer, however, was delivered in a matter of seconds, when the French captain Sandie Toletti hit a left-footed shot from the edge of the box past Swiss goalkeeper Nicole Studer. The Swiss paid the price for a lapse in concentration and the French immediately found just what they needed to calm the nerves.

Within five minutes they took the lead, when Kadidiatou Diani broke clear on the right and delivered a nicely weighted cross for Laura Blanchard to strike home. This allowed the French to recover their rhythm and, with screening midfielder Ghoutia Karchouni building competently from the back and Sandie Toletti taking a grip in midfield, they pushed persistently into Swiss territory with slick passing moves allied to strong ball-winning in the middle of the park. The French also occasionally exerted high pressure in the more easily controlled wide areas when the Swiss attempted to use their full-backs in building from the back.

The Swiss team, struggling to match the French finesse and technique, continued to show levels of commitment and resilience which earned the approval of the home supporters. But, once Pauline Cousin had turned in a Toletti corner before the interval, the outcome of the match was rarely in doubt. Swiss striker Sabrina Ribeaud admitted afterwards: "Once they made it 2-1 and 3-1, they seemed to grow in confidence and we found it difficult to deal with Toletti. She was strong in midfield – a very dominant personality." Toletti produced the run and cross which allowed Diani to volley a fourth goal early in the second half and, even though the Swiss sporadically tested French keeper Romane Bruneau (and the woodwork), the game had an unusual sting in the tail when France were awarded two penalties during added time, Toletti failing to convert the first but Karchouni making no mistake with the second. The French had successfully achieved their objective of qualifying for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup.

The high stakes produced similar edginess in the other semi-final between Germany and Denmark, the latter back in the final four for the first time since 2008. The game was marked by determined defending and uncompromising engagement in midfield. The German team had three on-target goal attempts, the Danes had none. Denmark's back four protected goalkeeper Maria Christensen with real authority, while the German central pair, Lena Lückel and Franziska Jaser, defused Danish dynamite. Anouschka Bernhard adjusted her team structure during the break, sending on Venus

El-Kassem to accompany the threatening Sara Däbritz, the leader of the German attack. Midway through the half, she sent on Pauline Bremer to work the left flank, and it was Bremer who broke the deadlock nine minutes from time. After Germany had won the ball following a throw-in in midfield, she received on the left of the Danish box, turned her marker and hit a cross-shot into the bottom corner. With the Danes launching themselves into a late onslaught, Bremer punished them further, latching on to a free-kick in midfield and crossing for Däbritz to make it 2-0 in the third minute of added time.

In stark contrast to the 2011 third-place play-off, which produced 10 goals, the 2012 match between Denmark and Switzerland yielded none. Anders Damgaard and Brigitte Steiner made three changes apiece to their starting lineups, but defensive solidity remained the common denominator. After an opening half of end-to-end play which produced chances for both sides, Denmark took the upper hand, pressing their opponents high while the Swiss focused on transitions into a defensive block and pressing from midfield. However, good goalkeeping by Nicole Studer and a goal-line clearance took the match into a penalty shoot-out – and 14 spot kicks were required to produce a winner. After four successful penalties, Denmark's Mille Poulsen was off-target and Amalie Thestrup had her shot saved by Studer. This offered the Swiss "two match points", but Pauline Vienne shot against the post and Francesca Calo's effort was saved by Naja Bahrensheer. With the scores again level, the issue was ultimately settled when the Swiss keeper's penalty was saved by her Danish counterpart. The third-place play-off had ended with high drama – and it served as a foretaste of what was to happen when Germany met France in the final later that day.

**In a clash between two No17s, French defender Alexandra Atamaniuk holds off a challenge by Swiss defender Pauline Vienne during the semi-final.**



Sportsfile

# THE FINAL

## Merle's magic moments



**French attacker Candice Gherbi goes up on her left toes and tries to put the ball where her eyes are despite the presence of German forward Jana Spengler.**

Midsummer with a vengeance. The sun was merciless and the heat was shimmering off Lake Geneva, whose cool waters offered an invitation to take the sting out of sunburnt skin. At the Stade de Colovray, little more than a stone's throw from the lake, a thousand or so supporters were perspiring as they waited for France and Germany to fight it out for the 2012 Under-17 title. For the players, the notion of a "warm-up" had a touch of irony to it. But they went through their pre-match routines with enthusiasm while water bottles were being checked on the touchline. It was evident that when the ball started rolling at 14.30, the heat would be a conditioning factor.

The two teams, however, had other ideas. As soon as English referee Amy Fearn signalled for play to commence, they went head-to-head like rugby players who had been waiting to form a scrum. Ball carriers were vigorously harried; spaces were shut down and short passing options pre-empted at vertiginous speed. The challenges were uncompromising and, within minutes, Amy Fearn had awarded four free-kicks. The match temperature was as high as the air temperature. Frenetic skirmishing in midfield was the dominant feature of the opening period, and it wasn't until the 13th minute that a scoring opportunity emerged from the swirl. And it was a good one.

French captain Sandie Toletti, playing her second successive final, turned sharply to strike a curling left-footed half-volley at the German goal. It was beyond the reach of Merle Frohms, but the German keeper breathed a sigh of relief when she saw the ball cannon off her post. She breathed again when Léa Declercq, following up, hit the rebound very narrowly over the bar.

It wasn't until the heat began to take a toll that a coherent pattern began to emerge. Anouschka Bernhard, experiencing her first final after less than a year in charge of the German Under-17s, modified her team structure by fielding Venus El-Kassem at the apex of the attack, with the influential Sara Däbritz floating in her wake. Vivien Beil on the right and Pauline Bremer on the left tried to use their pace to disturb the French full-backs, but their supply lines were often blocked by the intensity of the traffic in midfield. Janina Meissner was withdrawn into central midfield, from where she attempted to exploit her ability to read the game and deliver the astute pass.

Francisco "Paco" Rubio, leading the French team into its second successive final, had been obliged to reshuffle his back four in the wake of the injury suffered by central defender Margaux Leconte during the semi-final against the Swiss. But the

defensive structure showed no visible cracks as the German team struggled to find its usual attacking fluency. Almost 20 minutes had passed before Bernhard's team carved an opening – a neat reverse pass by El-Kassem putting Bremer through. But French goalkeeper Romane Bruneau got down well to save her low shot. She then comfortably dealt with an effort by Däbritz but had remained otherwise untested when the players took advantage of a break in play to head for the touchline and gulp down some much-needed liquid. Both teams were expending high levels of energy in cancelling each other out.

The French supporters who had crossed the border in force to get behind their team raised the decibels on the half-hour mark, when Laura Blanchard fed Declercq on the edge of the German box. Frohms reacted quickly to dispossess her but the ball broke back to Blanchard, whose long-range shot, while Frohms was scrambling back towards her goal, went narrowly wide of the target. Germany replied two minutes later, when Daria Streng and El-Kassem combined to send Däbritz clear in the left-flank channel. But the German captain couldn't get enough power behind her shot to trouble the competent Bruneau. When Amy Fearn signalled the end of the first half and allowed the players to head for the shade and cool of the dressing room, the French had enjoyed a marginal advantage in a stalemated contest.

Bernhard replaced Meissner with Theresa Panfil during the interval but the profile of the match remained unchanged. The technically gifted French attempted to build combination moves, relying on their screening midfielder Ghoutia Karchouni to distribute from deep and on Toletti to conduct the team's middle-to-front play. The Germans, unable to match the French team's passing fluency, focused on fierce pressure in their own half and, when the ball was won, delivering a quick forward pass to one of the frontrunners. The same applied when the ball was won in the defensive area, with Lena Lückel often hitting a direct pass to Bremer on the left wing. They provided a reminder of their danger at set plays, however, when Vivien Beil struck a powerful free-kick from the left which somehow evaded all her team-mates.

But, as the second half wore on and the heat began to sap muscle strength, the two sides found it increasingly difficult to

retain possession and to build coherently. Set plays provided momentary pauses during the frenetic activity and they were to prove decisive.

In the 57th minute, Panfil was penalised for a foul on Kadidiatou Diani and the delivery from the right by Candice Gherbi (who had replaced Blanchard four minutes earlier) was partially cleared as far as Diani on the edge of the German box. The French striker controlled the ball and struck it strongly past Frohms to put her side ahead. The Germans, although struggling to deal with the French team's combination play, found a reply ten minutes later when Karchouni fouled Bremer on the left. Once again, the free-kick was whipped in by Beil and Bremer angled her foot perfectly to direct the ball into the French net. Further endeavour was fruitless and, when the final whistle sounded, the statistics showed that 80 minutes of football had produced seven goal attempts and five corners for France, with four and zero respectively for the Germans. The issue was going to be settled by penalties.

The French, who had beaten Germany in the shoot-out which decided the 2011 semi-final, took an immediate advantage when Bruneau saved from the German captain, Däbritz. Six shots then hit the net before Frohms saved the shot by French defender Chloé Froment. After Lena Lückel had successfully converted the ninth spot kick, Ghoutia Karchouni stepped up to take the tenth. When Frohms chose the right direction and made the save, the German players raced to celebrate with her, while the French sank to the turf, realising that their 80 minutes of toiling in the torrid heat had been to no avail. They had lost their second successive final, Germany had become champions for the third time thanks to Merle's moments of magic, and Anouschka Bernhard was, to her relief, sprayed with cool water by her jubilant team.

## Anouschka's great start

"When I started working with this team a year ago," said Anouschka Bernhard after their penalty shoot-out victory in the final, "I didn't imagine that we would be the winners." The Under-17 title marked a successful start for the former VfL Sindelfingen and FSV Frankfurt defender, who represented Germany in 47 international matches. Curiously, her only international goal was her country's last in an epic 6-1 victory over Brazil at the FIFA Women's World Cup in 1995, when Germany finished as runners-up to Norway after a 2-0 defeat in the final. Anouschka played all six games wearing Germany's No. 2 shirt.

Anouschka began her coaching career back at FSV Frankfurt and had a spell running the national students' team. She then spent eight years as youth coordinator at Hertha BSC Berlin, responsible for the teams ranging from Under-7 to Under-13 levels. She completed her UEFA Pro licence course in 2009 (finishing second behind the current 1. FC Köln coach, Holger Stanislawski), joined the German Football Association in March 2011 and, after Ralf Peter had led the team for the final round of the 2011 European Women's Under-17 Championships, she took responsibility for Germany's



**German coach Anouschka Bernhard briefs her players prior to the penalty shoot-out against France which led to her first title with the Under-17 team.**

Under-16 and Under-17 squads. "We started off really badly," she confessed, "finishing seventh at the Nordic Cup. No German team had ever done that badly. If someone had told me at that moment that we would win this title, I would have thought they were completely crazy. It's unbelievable what this team has achieved. They work really hard together and it is an amazing feeling to have won the title."

**German holding midfielder Daria Ströng goes forcefully across Candice Gherbi to dispossess her during the final.**



# TECHNICAL TOPICS

## THE CASE FOR THE DEFENCE

Ten goals in four matches – six of them in a single game. And on the closing day, both matches needed to be settled by penalty shoot-outs. The short history of the final tournament in the Under-17 competition has been volatile, with the four games producing anything from 7 to 19 goals in an alternating pattern: 8 in 2008; 18 in 2009; 7 in 2010; and 19 in 2011. One of the significant statistics to emerge from the 2012 final tournament, however, was that 5 hours and 20 minutes of football produced only 30 on-target goal attempts – half of them shots by members of the French team. In their two matches, Germany totalled seven, Switzerland five, and Denmark three. The four matches produced 23 corners, compared with 44 in the previous year. The figures inevitably raise questions about whether, even though standards of technique have undoubtedly risen substantially in recent years, enough attention is being given to the end product.

The other side of the coin is to argue that defending has improved. All four finalists fielded well-organised defences with, in three cases, two screening midfielders in front of them. Although the norm was high pressure on the ball carrier when she attempted to break out, the general trend was transition into a compact defensive block, with pressure beginning when play crossed the halfway line.

The four matches produced 26 offside decisions and it was significant that the attack-minded French team accounted for 11 of them.

In terms of team shapes, Denmark lined up in a 4-2-3-1 formation, Switzerland had a 4-4-2, and Germany used variations on the habitual 4-2-3-1 structure. In the semi-final against Denmark, Janina Meissner played close to Sara Däbritz who, on this occasion, was deployed as the most advanced attacker. Anouschka Bernhard acknowledged that her top scorer didn't feel over-comfortable in the role and, at half-time, sent on Venus El-Kassem to lead the attack, with Meissner dropping into one of the central midfield slots and Däbritz operating as a shadow striker. This was the formation that started the final, with Theresa Panfil (who had started against the Danes) replacing Meissner after the interval in a bid to strengthen a midfield which was struggling to cope with French combination play.

Francisco "Paco" Rubio's French side provided the exception to the rule by operating in a 4-3-3 formation, with the influential Ghoutia Karchouni in the pivotal holding role in midfield, from where she distributed the ball with class and aplomb. She played a well-defined anchor role behind Laura Blanchard and the team's leader, Sandie Toletti, both of whom were prepared to break forward into scoring positions.

The French team also featured two adventurous wingers, both Léa Declercq and Kadidiatou Diani prepared to take on defenders and cut inside into scoring positions. As a result, the French full-backs adopted a more conservative approach than some of their counterparts, with the German pair of Johanna Tietge and Wibke Meister especially active in overlapping and supporting attacks. Denmark made good use of the width, although their full-backs were more conservative than the Germans. However, even though play was generally well distributed to the wide areas in midfield, the wingers, although most had pace, found it difficult to penetrate.

Life in the attacking third was made more complicated by the fact that standards of defending were deemed to have risen. The quality and timing of tackling was of a high level and the number of interceptions provided evidence to support theories that reading of the game is steadily improving. Standards of goalkeeping (a topic which raises perennial questions in the women's game) were also praised at the 2012 event.

As UEFA's observer, Béatrice von Siebenthal, commented: *"A big improvement in goalkeeping could be seen. All four goalkeepers were part of the team and participated in the game. They were good at defending and they were good at building from the back. They were all able to*



**French screening midfielder Ghoutia Karchouni beats Swiss goalkeeper Nicole Studer to convert the second penalty awarded to her team during added time at the end of the semi-final.**

vary their team's attacking options by making short or long passes. And they all generated a sensation of security. Team-mates were willing and able to use them as extra defenders by passing back to them without fear of creating situations of risk. On the other hand, it was difficult to assess their abilities in dealing with crosses because, during the four games, it has to be said that the goalkeepers were not very active in that department." Long-range shooting, which had led to 26% of the goals in 2011, failed to produce a goal in 2012.

### CROSS REFERENCES

The subject of crossing and finishing was one of the themes to emerge from the four matches played. The French were the most effective of the finalists, with three of their goals against the Swiss stemming from crosses. Germany's second against Denmark, turned in by Sara Däbritz during added time when the Danes were pushing for an equaliser, also resulted from a cross. The French goal in the final also came when a cross from the right was not cleared. Switzerland's only goal of the tournament had similar origins, with the French defence failing to deal with a cross, and the German equaliser in the final also originated in a delivery from the left flank – on this occasion in a dead-ball situation, with Vivien Beil curling a free-kick dangerously into the French box.

All but one of the five open-play goals originated in the wide areas – a clear indication that teams were attempting to play round compact defensive blocks rather than playing their way through them. None of the goals resulted from combination play through the central area. None of the goals was scored by the lone strikers – the goal by Däbritz coming after El-Kassem had been sent on to lead the German attack and allow her to drop into a more withdrawn role. This extended a feature noted in the 2011 final tournament, when lone strikers contributed only two goals, one of them a free-kick.



**Danish defender Ida Karstoft and German captain Sara Däbritz have different ways of expressing total concentration as they dispute possession during the semi-final.**

Despite providing the main source of goals, some of the crossing was ineffective and none of the goals was scored with a header.

Half of the goals stemmed from dead-ball situations, including two of the champions' three goals, which had their origins in indirect free-kicks. France's goal in the final also stemmed from an indirect free-kick and, of their five goals against the Swiss, one was a penalty and other resulted from a corner.

### CREATING CHANCES

As mentioned earlier, the Under-17 tournament has produced fluctuations in terms of goal attempts. The 2011 finals generated 19 goals from 83 scoring attempts

– a high 23% success rate. On the other hand, the four matches in 2010 produced only 33 goal attempts, of which seven were converted. The 2012 tournament yielded ten goals (one of them a penalty) from 65 attempts – which indicates a significantly lower success rate. The chart below shows the 2012 figures.

Team	Attempts	Average	On Target	Average
Denmark	15	7.5	3	1.5
France	32	16.0	15	7.5
Germany	14	7.0	7	3.5
Switzerland	11	5.5	5	2.5



**With German striker Venus El-Kassem at her back and Johanna Tietge closing-in, Danish midfielder Mille Poulsen nudges the ball away.**

## PREPARATIONS

The tournament dates generally combined well with national championships. In Switzerland, the league had ended on 9/10 June, in Denmark on 17 June, and in Germany some of the squad had ended their domestic commitments on 10 June, others on 28 May. The French provided the exception, as the domestic season had drawn to a close on 27 May, with the result that the players travelled to Nyon after a break. As soon as the national championship had finished, the squad assembled for a four-day training camp

and then reconvened to prepare for the final tournament on 21 June – five days before the opening match.

The Danish squad's preparation featured two three-day training camps which included two practice matches against the Under-19 national team. Brigitte Steiner assembled the Swiss squad for a three-day training camp including games against the women's Under-20 team and the boys' Under-14 and Under-15s. This was followed by a two-day get-together and one day of medical testing. Anouschka Bernhard had her squad together for a total of 12 training days, consisting of one three-day, one four-day and one five-day camp, one of which prioritised physical preparation, one featured two practice games, and the other served to select the 18-player squad for Nyon.

Training schedules differed significantly. The Danish players generally trained four times per week, including one session where they were with players from higher levels (the boys or the senior team). The French players normally trained at least five times per week, with four of the squad already playing their football with top-division clubs – five in the second tier and the other nine with Under-19 teams. There was great variety among the German squad, with some training nine times per week at elite academies, others doing at least three sessions with their teams, and some doing individual preparation programmes. The Swiss squad was also operating within varied parameters. Ten of the players were already at top-division clubs, one was at a second-tier club, two were in the third division, four were playing for Under-18 teams, and the other was playing her football in a boys' team. Brigitte Steiner admitted that the differences between the leagues made team-building more problematic, that there were players who had been regularly playing on both Saturdays and Sundays, and that club requirements also didn't coincide with good career-management criteria.

Francisco "Paco" Rubio highlighted the difficulties in combining top-level football with the sort of studies which will equip the girls to pursue a career outside the game. Anouschka Bernhard mentioned that, since the introduction in Germany of a national women's Under-17 league, the girls play less football alongside the boys.

## EXPERIENCED CAMPAIGNERS

It could be argued that the French duo of Léa Declercq and Sandie Toletti, alongside German forward Sara Däbritz, emerged among the dominant figures of the 2012 final tournament. All three had been in Nyon for the 2011 finals and, indeed, all three had been in the UEFA technical team's select squad. In 2012, all four squads contained players born in 1996. The total was 14 and 13 of them started at least one game – the exception being France's second goalkeeper, Claire Jacob. Which therefore begs the question: Should squads be selected rigidly on a year by year basis? Or should young talent be given international opportunities as soon as possible?

# TALKING POINTS



## FAIRER SEX?

At the 2011 final tournament, the coaches of all four finalists were men. At the Women's EURO in 2009, one of the talking points was that 9 of the 12 coaches were also male and that, during that season, 19 of the 24 finalists in UEFA competitions had been coached by men. UEFA's technical report on EURO 2009 mentioned that national associations evidently appoint the coaches they feel are the best equipped for the job, irrespective of gender, but raised such questions as whether the less "professional" parameters of women's football in the greater part of Europe's footballing family make a coaching career with women less attractive, whether fewer women feel they have the leadership qualities required for the job, and whether this is down to a lack of coach education opportunities.

The winning coach, as it happened, was one of the women. Her victory was by the narrowest of margins, but Anouschka Bernhard's winning debut in the competition provokes reflections. As mentioned earlier in this report, Anouschka had played at right-back in Germany's silver-medal-winning side at the 1995 FIFA Women's World Cup, where among her team-mates were Silvia Neid, Maren Meinert and Bettina Wiegmann – all of whom went on to become members of the German national association's coaching team. Gero Bisanz was the coach of that German team and, as Tina says: *"When women's football really took off in our country, we were fortunate to have Gero Bisanz in the German association, who opened a lot of doors for us. I think this is important for other associations. Women need to have political support from the*

*situation. The importance of the game was very high."* Strangely, he wasn't talking about the final. The stress was generated prior to the semi-final against Switzerland by the fact that only the two finalists would be heading for the FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup in Azerbaijan a few weeks later. The four coaches in Nyon expressed disappointment that Europe had only two entries in addition to the hosts. With only four teams currently qualifying for the European final tournament and only three for the World Cup, are the young players in this age bracket being offered sufficient opportunities to gain international experience? Is the expansion of the Under-17 tournament to eight teams a step in the right direction?

Team	Head coach	Assistant coach	Goalkeeping coach
Denmark	Male	Male	Male
France	Male	Female	Female
Germany	Female	Female	Female
Switzerland	Female	Female	Male

A few weeks before the Under-17 finals, UEFA had invited the Scotland coach, Anna Signeul, and Germany's Women's World Cup and EURO-winning coach, Tina Theune, to attend the UEFA Women's Champions League final (at which both coaches were male) and afterwards to talk about the current state of coaching in the women's game. *"There are a lot of very good coaches in the women's game – male and female – but I think that men have the advantage in terms of opportunities,"* Tina commented. *"This is a pity, because the mixed courses I have attended have had an exceptionally good atmosphere."*

*decision-makers in terms of offering them opportunities."* Anna Signeul added: *"I think the key is to stimulate the players' interest in coaching while they are still young."* Is enough being done to encourage women to embark on a coaching career?

## CHANGING THE WORLD?

The French coach, Francisco "Paco" Rubio, commented on his team's performance: *"My players made more technical mistakes than usual because of the stressful*

At the Under-17 final tournament in Nyon, it did not pass unnoticed that the percentage of female members of coaching staff was higher than usual, as the table shows.

**Germany's Wibke Meister still looks composed as she deals with a muscular challenge by French winger Kadidiatou Diani.**





# DENMARK



## COACH

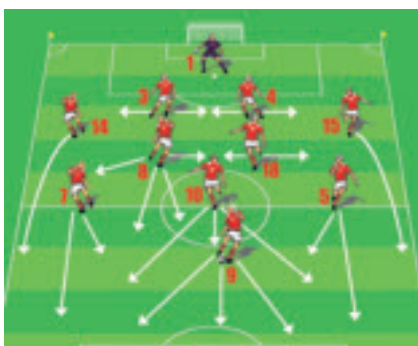
Anders DAMGAARD  
11/01/1971



“  
In the end, it was satisfying to take third place, but our ambitions went beyond that. The key was the opening match against Germany. Both teams knew each other very well, and we were prepared for what they would try to do to us. And they knew what we would try to do. I think they had the better of the first half, but we played well in the second half. Germany scored from their first real chance nine minutes from the end, which was disappointing. I really thought that we deserved more.  
”

No	Player	Born	Pos	GER	SUI	G	Club
1	Maria CHRISTENSEN	03/07/1995	GK	80			Team Viborg
3	Laura LARSEN	25/02/1995	DF	80	80		Brøndby IF
4	Maja KILDEMOES	15/08/1996	DF	80	80		Næsby IF
5	Kristina ANDERSEN	12/05/1995	MF	57			Brøndby IF
6	Isabell NEDERBY	03/01/1995	DF		80		BSF
7	Frederikke THØGERSEN	24/07/1995	FW	77	80		Thisted FC
8	Mille POULSEN	21/08/1995	MF	80	80		IK Skovbakken
9	Sarah DYREHAUGE Hansen	14/09/1996	FW	77	80		Vejle BK
10	Anna FISKER	24/05/1995	MF	80	78		Fortuna Hjørring
11	Matilde FRAUSING Christiansen	10/01/1995	FW	23	2		Horsens SIK
12	Laura JOEST Jakobsen	01/12/1995	FW	3			Fortuna Hjørring
13	Kamilla ØRSKOV Jensen	21/11/1996	FW		53		Næsby IF
14	Ida KARSTOFT	29/10/1995	DF	80	80		Thisted FC
15	Christina BECK	21/08/1996	DF	80	80		KoldingQ
16	Naja BAHRENSCHEER	03/09/1996	GK		80		BSF
17	Amalie THESTRUP	17/03/1995	FW	3	27		Brøndby IF
18	Emilie BRØNDUM-JENSEN	06/02/1995	MF	80			BSF
22	Ilda KEPIC	17/01/1995	GK				Thisted FC

Pos = Position; G = Goals; \* = Started; + = Substitute



- 4-2-3-1 adaptable to 4-2-1-3 according to match situation
- Compact, well-organised defending; strong in 1v1 situations
- Prepared to take the initiative; courageous attacking tactics
- Good use of width with full-backs ready to support
- Attacking from deep with support players pushing forward
- Sustained high pressure on opponents; ball-winning in advanced areas
- Fluent attacking play with good middle-to-front mobility



## COACH

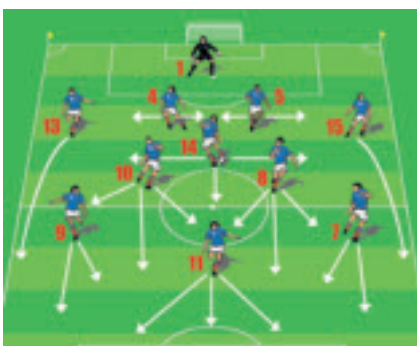
Francisco "Paco" RUBIO  
06/12/1953



“  
Our objective was to reach the final and win it. Failing to take the title takes nothing away from our campaign, because we won all our games in qualifying and were unbeaten at the final tournament. We were a bit nervy at times, but that's understandable in a final. We had chances to score more than one goal and I hoped we would build on our lead. But I guess that a draw was a fair result. The shoot-out was like the toss of a coin. We beat them in this way in 2011 and this time it fell for them. Moments like that can be cruel but there is no shame in our defeat.”

No	Player	Born	Pos	SUI	GER	G	Club
1	Romane BRUNEAU	27/08/1996	GK	80	80		Montpellier Hérault SC
2	Chloé FROMENT	30/07/1995	DF		80		Olympique Lyonnais
3	Magdalène VASSEUR	10/05/1995	DF	31	80		EA Guingamp
4	Margaux LECONTE	14/01/1995	DF	49			CPB Brequigny
5	Aissatou TOUNKARA	16/03/1995	DF	80	80		FCF Juvisy
6	Candice GHERBI	05/09/1995	MF	48+	27		AS Saint-Etienne
7	Léa DECLERCQ	12/05/1995	FW	32*	63		FC Hénin-Beaumont
8	Laura BLANCHARD	03/08/1995	MF	80	53	1	Dijon FCO
9	Kadīdiatou DIANI	01/04/1995	FW	80	80	2	FCF Juvisy
10	Sandie TOLETTI	13/07/1995	MF	80	80	1	Montpellier Hérault SC
11	Pauline COUSIN	04/02/1995	FW	80	47	1	FC Hénin-Beaumont
12	Laurie SAULNIER	08/05/1995	FW		33		FCF Monteux
13	Marion ROMANELLI	24/07/1996	DF	40*			FCF Monteux
14	Ghoutia KARCHOUNI	29/05/1995	MF	80	80	1	Olympique Lyonnais
15	Noémie CARAGE	09/09/1996	DF	80	80		Olympique Lyonnais
16	Claire JACOB	03/05/1996	GK				FCF Hénin-Beaumont
17	Alexandra ATAMANIUK	11/06/1995	FW	40+			FC Vendenheim
18	Ophélie GAHERY	15/03/1995	DF		17		Le Mans FC

Pos = Position; G = Goals; \* = Started; + = Substitute



- 4-3-3 with single midfield screen and two fast wingers
- Excellent technique; outstanding, unpredictable individuals
- High-tempo ball circulation; middle-to-front mobility
- Good mix of short passing combinations and direct attacking
- Outstanding athletic qualities; good sense of anticipation
- Attacks exploiting pace and skill of wingers 9 Diani and 7 Declercq
- Well-organised defence led by 5 Tounkara



# GERMANY



## COACH

Anouschka BERNHARD  
05/10/1970



**We have a huge tradition in this competition and that put pressure on us. The final was between two teams of very similar levels. I would say that France had the better individuals but we played better as a team. I think that made the difference. Our fitness helped us and at the end we were looking stronger and fitter. In a final, you would normally expect the team who scores first to win. But we came back as a team. We fought for one another. It is an amazing feeling to have won the title.**

No	Player	Born	Pos	DEN	FRA	G	Club
1	Merle FROHMS	28/01/1995	GK	80	80		VfL Wolfsburg
2	Sara SCHULTE	08/06/1995	DF				SV Meppen
3	Sharon BECK	22/03/1995	DF	1			SG Essen-Schönebeck
4	Laura LELUSCHKO	30/10/1995	DF				Bayer 04 Leverkusen
5	Lena LÜCKEL	09/08/1995	DF	80	80		FSV Gütersloh 2009
6	Daria STRENG	22/05/1995	MF	80	80		FCR 2001 Duisburg
7	Vivien BEIL	12/12/1995	MF	80	80		FF USV Jena
8	Theresa PANFIL	13/11/1995	MF	40*	40+		1. FFC Frankfurt
9	Jana SPENGLER	30/01/1995	FW		20		VfL Sindelfingen
10	Sara DÄBRITZ	15/02/1995	FW	80	80	1	SC Freiburg
11	Manjou WILDE	19/04/1995	MF	62			SV Werder Bremen
12	Teresa STRAUB	10/08/1995	GK				SC Freiburg
13	Franziska JASER	20/01/1996	DF	80	80		TSG Thannhausen
14	Wibke MEISTER	12/03/1995	DF	79	80		1. FFC Turbine Potsdam
15	Pauline BREMER	10/04/1996	MF	18	80	2	SVG Göttingen
16	Janina MEISSNER	22/02/1995	FW	80	40*		TSG 1899 Hoffenheim
17	Johanna TIETGE	16/04/1996	DF	80	80		VfL Wolfsburg / SSV Kästorf
18	Venus EL-KASSEM	04/01/1995	FW	40+	60		1. FFC Turbine Potsdam

Pos = Position; G = Goals; \* = Started; + = Substitute



- 4-2-3-1 or 4-4-2 with support striker
- Well-balanced team with strong collective values
- Good athletic condition; fast transitions between attack and defence
- Mix of short combinations and direct supply to frontrunners
- Effective use of flanks with wingers and overlapping full-backs
- Disciplined, collective defensive play with 1 Frohms a secure keeper
- Mentally strong and resilient in decisive moments and situations



## COACH

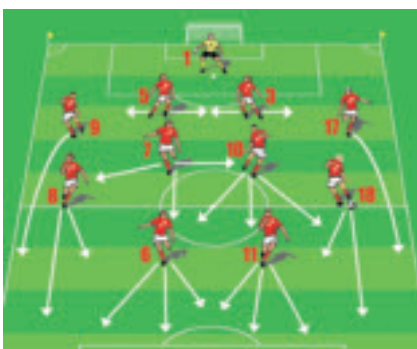
Brigitte STEINER  
28/09/1981



“ We can be disappointed with our results but it was a positive experience in every respect and my players learned a lot. France were technically and tactically better than us. They were superior to us in every position. We had a chance to upset them but we switched off after we had scored and let them get immediately back into the game. We improved during the second half, but France punished us. All credit to the players for coming back after that result and giving a 100% performance against Denmark. The results didn't go our way, but I felt proud of the team. ”

No	Player	Born	Pos	FRA	DEN	G	Club
1	Nicole STUDER	22/02/1996	GK	80	80		FC Zürich
2	Alessandra ABBÜHL	26/11/1995	DF				FC Aarau
3	Lena BRUDERER	29/05/1995	DF	80	80		FC Staad
4	Francesca CALO	25/05/1995	MF	27	80		BSC Young Boys
5	Alessa CASTIGNETTI	22/03/1995	DF	80	80		BSC Young Boys
6	Barla DEPLAZES	14/11/1995	FW	59	29		FC Zürich
7	Andrea FREI	14/07/1995	MF	53	15		FC Basel 1893
8	Florijana ISMAILI	01/01/1995	MF	40*	70		BSC Young Boys
9	Noelle MARITZ	23/12/1995	DF	S	80		FC Zürich
10	Carmen PULVER	18/09/1995	MF	80	65	1	Grasshopper Club
11	Sabrina RIBEAUD	07/05/1995	FW	80	80		FC Basel 1893
12	Laura SCHNEIDER	14/12/1995	GK				SC Kriens
13	Nina STAPELFELDT	13/04/1995	DF	80			SC Kriens
14	Aline STÖCKLI	22/09/1995	MF	21	51		BSC Young Boys
15	Meriame TERCHOUN	27/10/1995	MF	40+	10		FC Zürich
16	Anja THÜRIG	03/05/1995	MF				Grasshopper Club
17	Pauline VIENNE	01/03/1996	DF	80	80		Team Vaud
18	Audrey WUICHET	29/06/1995	FW	80	80		FC Yverdon

Pos = Position; G = Goals; \* = Started; + = Substitute



- 4-4-2 with 7 Frei and 10 Pulver the driving forces in central midfield
- Emphasis on playing from the back and building short-passing attacks
- Attacking potential reinforced by fast middle-to-front players
- Good use of wide areas with 9 Maritz and 17 Vienne adventurous full-backs
- 6 Deplazes and 11 Ribeaud a classic attacking partnership
- 1 Studer generated confidence with competent goalkeeping
- Strong team ethic; commitment to cause

# THE TECHNICAL OBSERVER

Making a selection of the players who caught the eye is no easy task at a final tournament which comprises just four games and therefore offers limited opportunities to observe and assess each individual. At the 2012 final tournament, UEFA's technical observer was Béatrice von Siebenthal who, as a player, had 14 seasons at BCO Alemannia Basel 1919, SV Sissach and FC Bern before starting a coaching career immediately after hanging up her boots. She recalls that she was the only woman on the course where she acquired her coaching credentials, becoming the only Swiss woman to hold a UEFA Pro licence. After a year in regional football, she took over at FC Rot-Schwarz Thun and made her international debut when, in 1995, she combined her club role with the job of coaching the Swiss national Under-19 team. A year later, she joined the coaching staff at the Swiss Football Association, where she was at the helm of the senior national team for seven years from 2005 until July 2012. These are the players who, in her opinion, could go on to make a mark at Under-17 and, maybe, senior level.

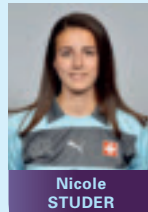
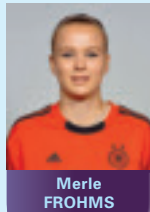


**French winger Léa Declercq and Germany's Johanna Tietge were both singled out by the technical observer.**

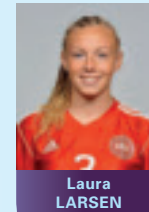
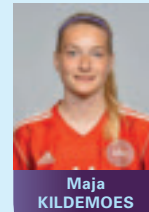
## TECHNICAL OBSERVER SELECTION

No	Name	Country
<b>Goalkeepers</b>		
1	Merle FROHMS	Germany
1	Nicole STUDER	Switzerland
<b>Defenders</b>		
15	Noémie CARAGE	France
4	Maja KILDEMOES	Denmark
3	Laura LARSEN	Denmark
9	Noelle MARITZ	Switzerland
17	Johanna TIEGTE	Germany
5	Aïssatou TOUNKARA	France
<b>Midfielders</b>		
10	Anna FISKER	Denmark
14	Ghoutia KARCHOUNI	France
16	Janina MEISSNER	Germany
10	Carmen PULVER	Switzerland
10	Sandie TOLETTI	France
<b>Attackers</b>		
10	Sara DÄBRITZ	Germany
7	Léa DECLERCQ	France
9	Kadidiatou DIANI	France
11	Sabrina RIBEAUD	Switzerland
7	Frederikke THØGERSEN	Denmark

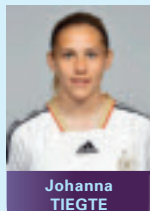
### Goalkeepers



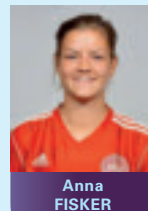
### Defenders



### Defenders



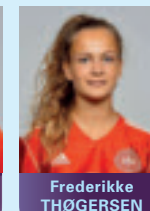
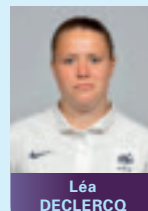
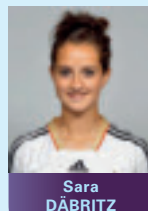
### Midfielders



### Midfielders



### Attackers



# RESULTS



## SEMI-FINALS

26 June 2012

Switzerland – France 1-5 (1-3)

1-0 Carmen Pulver 13, 1-1 Sandie Toletti 14, 1-2 Laura Blanchard 19, 1-3 Pauline Cousin 40, 1-4 Kadidiatou Diani 52, 1-5 Ghoutia Karchouni 80+4 pen.

**Attendance:** 1,000 at Stade de Colovray, Nyon; KO 11.00

**Yellow cards:** Barla Deplazes 47, Meriame Terchoun 76, Audrey Wuichet 80+4 (Switzerland)

**Referee:** Marte Sorø (Norway) / **Assistants:** Bilic, Malca

**Fourth official:** Stricker

Denmark – Germany 0-2 (0-0)

0-1 Pauline Bremer 71, 0-2 Sara Däbritz 80+3

**Attendance:** 500 at Stade de Colovray, Nyon; KO 15.00

**Yellow cards:** Lena Lückel 73, Daria Streng 76 (Germany)

**Referee:** Amy Fearn (England) / Torok, Mazanova / Stricker

## FINAL

29 June 2012

France – Germany 1-1

3-4 in penalty shoot-out (no extra time played)

1-0 Kadidiatou Diani 57, 1-1 Pauline Bremer 67

**Penalty shoot-out (Germany started):** 0-0 Sara Däbritz (saved),

1-0 Sandie Toletti, 1-1 Vivien Beil, 2-1 Laurie Saulnier, 2-2 Theresa Panfil,

3-2 Candice Gherbi, 3-3 Daria Streng, 3-3 Chloé Froment (saved),

3-4 Lena Lückel, 3-4 Ghoutia Karchouni (saved)

**France:** Romane Bruneau; Chloé Froment, Aissatou Tounkara, Noémie Carage, Magdalène Vasseur; Ghoutia Karchouni; Sandie Toletti (captain), Laura Blanchard (Candice Gherbi 53); Kadidiatou Diani, Pauline Cousin (Laurie Saulnier 47), Léa Declercq (Ophélie Gahery 63)

**Germany:** Merle Frohms; Johanna Tietge, Lena Lückel, Franziska Jaser, Wibke Meister; Janina Meissner (Theresa Panfil 41), Daria Streng; Vivien Beil, Sara Däbritz (captain), Pauline Bremer; Venus El-Kassem (Jana Spengler 60)

**Attendance:** 1,100 at Stade de Colovray, Nyon; KO 14.30

**Yellow cards:** Tietge 53, Streng 77 (Germany)

**Referee:** Amy Fearn (England) / Bilic; Mazanova / Stricker

## THIRD-PLACE MATCH

29 June 2012

Switzerland – Denmark 0-0

4-5 in penalty shoot-out (no extra time played)

**Penalty shoot-out (Denmark started):** 0-1 Sarah Dyrehauge,

1-1 Lena Bruderer, 1-2 Christina Beck, 2-2 Audrey Wuichet,

2-2 Mille Poulsen (wide), 3-2 Sabrina Ribeaud, 3-2 Amalie Thestrup (saved),

3-2 Pauline Vienne (post), 3-3 Maja Kildemoes, 3-3 Francesca Calò (saved),

3-4 Matilde Frausing, 4-4 Barla Deplazes, 4-5 Isabell Nederby,

4-5 Nicole Studer (post)

**Attendance:** 700 at Stade de Colovray, Nyon; KO 11.00

**Yellow cards:** None

**Referee:** Marte Sorø (Norway) / Torok; Malca / Stricker

## MATCH OFFICIALS

Name	Country	Date of Birth	FIFA
<b>Referees</b>			
Amy FEARN	England	20/11/1977	2003
Marte SØRØ	Norway	29/04/1980	2008
<b>Assistant Referees</b>			
Svetlana BILIC	Serbia	25/03/1981	2009
Tzvia MALCA	Israel	19/12/1975	2004
Yana MAZANOVA	Russia	30/01/1985	2011
Katalin TOROK	Hungary	10/01/1985	2008
<b>Fourth Official</b>			
Daniela STRICKER	Switzerland	21/10/1987	–

## FAIR PLAY RANKINGS

Pos.	Team	Points	Matches played
1	France	8.714	2
2	Denmark	8.428	2
3	Germany	8.000	2
4	Switzerland	8.000	2



Biting medals, singing, shouting, laughing... The German squad is understandably happy after winning the shoot-out and the title.

UEFA  
Route de Genève 46  
CH-1260 Nyon 2  
Switzerland  
Telephone +41 848 00 27 27  
Telefax +41 848 01 27 27  
[UEFA.com](http://UEFA.com)

Union des associations  
européennes de football

