

Technical Report



UEFA

WOMEN'S
UNDER19[™]
CHAMPIONSHIP



European Women's Under-19 Championship
Final round - Italy 2011

INTRODUCTION

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The 2011 tournament featured four of the national associations which had sent teams to Skopje a year earlier – but, to illustrate the competitive nature of women’s Under-19 football, France and England, the gold and silver medallists in 2010, were not among them. All eight teams were accommodated in one hotel in the Adriatic coastal resort of Cervia, in the Emilia-Romagna region of Italy, which helped to maximise social contacts between players and coaches. The 14 match officials from non-participating associations were accommodated, along with the 2 local referees who acted as fourth officials, at a hotel in the vicinity. The host association received unanimous praise for an impeccably well-organised event.

The 15 matches were played at four venues in Cervia itself, Forli, Bellaria and Imola, where the stadium at the Formula One circuit was the venue for the final. The four semi-finalists were rewarded with places as Europe’s representatives at the FIFA U-20 World Cup, to be played in Uzbekistan. During the group stage, kick-off times were standardised at 17.00, with only one of the semi-finals and the final starting later in the evening. The final tournament was supported by three Italian sponsors, along with adidas and Eurosport, the latter providing pan-European TV coverage of the event. The cumulative attendance for the event was 12,660, at an average of 844 per match.

As has become the custom, educational sessions were a prelude to the doping controls conducted during the final tournament, teams received pre-tournament briefings about refereeing guidelines, and data was injected into UEFA’s ongoing injury research project. As part of a campaign to promote women’s football, the Italian association affiliated each of the finalists with a school in the area, with members of the coaching and playing staffs visiting “their” school during the opening week of the tournament.

Even though the host association was a stronger contender for the title than in the two previous editions, the goalscoring total was 54, only 3 below the figure registered in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2010.

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THE ROUTE TO THE FINAL



"In the end, our goalkeeper saved us; there's no doubt about that," commented Swiss coach Yannick Schwery after the goalless draw which clinched a place in the semi-finals and in the FIFA U-20 World Cup. His comment summed up a group stage where individual performances exerted a strong influence during confrontations between evenly matched teams. "We reached the semi-finals without really playing to our full potential", Yannick admitted.

The Swiss illustrated this during their opening match against the Belgians when, after taking a two-goal lead, they came close to conceding an equaliser but applied a shiny finish with two late goals. The Belgians produced a repeat performance in their second game after going a goal down to Russia and then, after equalising and gaining the upper hand, hit the self-destruct button with two unforced errors which threw the Russian team a lifeline after their opening 2-1 defeat by the hosts. Corrado Corradini's side, bearing the burden of home-team responsibilities, went on to defeat the Swiss with a solitary late goal and clinch a semi-final place with a match to spare – which gave him an opportunity to rest players who were within one yellow card of a suspension and offer some football to the other squad members. Despite this, they maintained their 100% record by coming from a goal down to beat Belgium with three goals in five minutes.

Germany, always the pre-tournament favourites, trod a similar path in Group B. Two long-range shots and an added-time third gave them an opening win against Norway and a solitary goal then gave them a second win in a match when, as Maren Meinert admitted, "Spain played well but we didn't." The serious injury to right-winger Nicole Rolser did nothing to alleviate her concerns about

a lack of finishing power. However, an added-time goal preserved their 100% record in the final game against the Dutch, who had kicked off in the knowledge that they needed to win by at least a three-goal margin to harbour any hopes of progress. After their opening draw against Spain, individual errors weighed heavily in the Netherlands' 3-0 defeat by a Norwegian team which had successfully repaired damaged morale. This created a scenario in which, on the last matchday, Spain could progress by beating Norway – who only needed to draw. Again, individual errors made a contribution to a spectacular match in which Jarl Torske was able to celebrate his birthday on the back of an outstanding first-half display and a convincing 5-1 win which made the Dutch team's result irrelevant.

This set up a semi-final against the hosts in Bellaria which was a spectacular meeting between two footballing cultures. Norway twice took the lead, only for the skilful Italians to reply via superbly delivered through balls which put Elisa Lecce and Katia Coppola in 1 v 1 situations against the keeper. However, substitute Caroline Hansen put Jarl Torske's team ahead by curling a corner from the left directly into the net – and this time the hosts could find no reply. The form book was respected in the other semi-final, with Germany, although being held 1-1 at the interval, proving too strong for a Swiss side whose game plan was to draw them forward and hit them on the counter. The 3-1 scoreline meant that Germany and Norway, opponents on the opening day, were to face up again in the final.

Norway's captain Kristine Hegland tries to find a way past a determined challenge by Italy's Claudia Mauri during the exciting semi-final in Bellaria.



THE FINAL

Formula One football in Imola



Melissa Bjånesøy, almost hidden by Maria Thorisdottir, heads her side's consolation goal in the final – and earns personal consolation in the form of the tournament's top scorer award.

Thunder was still rumbling around the plains of Emilia-Romagna as the players ran out to warm up on a pitch where rain had helped to lay foundations for fast-flowing football. In the stands at the Stadio Romeo Galli, situated within the confines of the famous Formula One circuit at Imola, there was an air of expectancy as a steadily improving Norwegian side prepared to take on a German team which had struggled to find top gear. Norway had scored 11 times in their last 3 games; the Germans 6. On the other hand, the German squad contained several of the players who had gone into UEFA's record books by hitting seven goals past Spain in the 2009 Under-17 final. It was an ominous piece of information.

While Jarl Torske remained faithful to the 4-1-4-1 structure which had served Norway well en route to the final, Maren Meinert made adjustments within Germany's 4-2-3-1 structure. Carolin Simon was invited to exploit her pace on the left wing, with Jennifer Cramer coming in to replace her at left-back. Lena Lotzen took over as attacking spearhead from Eunice Beckmann, who immediately set off Norwegian alarm bells with a fast combination on the right and a left-footed shot which narrowly flew over the goal defended by Ane Fimreite. In quick succession, the keeper was required to deal with two fierce shots and an equal number of one-on-one situations as Ramona Petzelberger and Lena Lotzen drove in at her goal. Germany's fluent passing game had finally engaged top gear; the Norwegians were struggling to stay in the race.

Their back four were being obliged to cope with four German attackers and, with the full-backs sucked out wide to deal with two wingers, Maria Thorisdottir was frequently lured away from her midfield screening role to plug gaps in the defence. The knock-on effect was that, even though Thorisdottir twice pushed forward to strike shots from long-range, Andrine Hegerberg and Cathrine Dekkerhus had to deal with heavy workloads in the engine room, where Germany's screening midfielders Kathrin Hendrich and Isabella Schmid complemented each other nicely in attacking and defensive functions. The Norwegians were frequently forced to aim long passes at Melissa Bjånesøy, the lone striker whose intelligent off-the-ball movement, technique and finishing power had provided a sharp cutting edge to the team's attacking play. She was always ready to pounce, but the main threats to Lisa Schmitz in the German goal stemmed from set plays, a glancing header by Bjånesøy from a long-range free-kick and a left-footed delivery by Andrine Hegerberg of a free-kick on the right, which was cleared off the German line.

However, it was a set play at the other end which broke the deadlock. Not for the first time, Norway's left-back Anja Sønstevold slipped while going into a challenge and the subsequent left-footed shot by Eunice Beckmann was brilliantly tipped away by Fimreite. Germany's third corner in the opening 29 minutes was driven in firmly from the left by Ramona Petzelberger and central defender Luisa Wensing met it with a stooping header from close range.

It was the only punch to be landed before half-time and, when the teams left the field, Maren Meinert's concerns about translating fluent approach play into goals had not been dissipated, while Jarl Torske had reasons to feel that, even though the Germans' powerful tidal flow had dragged his team off course, they were still afloat and hopeful that, in accord with the climatic conditions, the storm would abate.

He made one change during the break, sending on Caroline Hansen, whose gazelle-like pace on the right flank had troubled the Germans during their meeting on the opening day. This time, she was deployed in a central area where she could potentially inflict greater damage. Sure enough, the red shirts pushed forward, seemingly recharged with brightness and optimism. But another storm was about to break.

Barely five minutes had passed when a neat combination on the left allowed Isabella Schmid to hit a right-footed shot over Ane Fimreite into the roof of the net. Five minutes later, Eunice Beckmann combined with Ramona Petzelberger to offer Lena Lotzen a one-on-one confrontation with the keeper, which she resolved with aplomb. Three minutes later, Lotzen nodded down a cross from the left for Petzelberger to hit the roof of the Norwegian net again. Within two minutes, a partially cleared corner was returned to the box for Lotzen to head home. Between the Norwegian posts, Fimreite's luminous lemon outfit stood out like a beacon under the floodlights and German attacks were incessantly driven towards her as if guided by a satellite navigation system. Ten magic minutes had made it 5-0 and, effectively, game over.

The five-goal cushion prompted Maren Meinert to make her three changes in the space of six minutes – two of them in the front line, where the injection of Ivana Rudelic and Anja Maïke Hegenauer sharpened German attacking hunger even further. The two combined to round off a text-book counterattack for the former to make it 6-0 with a first-time shot, and although Bjånesøy provided a drop of

consolation by heading in a corner, two long-range efforts by Schmid and Hegenauer completed the record-breaking score.

When Portuguese referee Sandra Braz Bastos blew the final whistle, Maren Meinert went immediately to embrace the disconsolate Jarl Torske; the German team commemorated an exceptional display by dancing around the pitch, arms pumping as if they were going through an aerobics session in the gym. The distraught Norwegians wandered in a daze until their coach gathered them like a shepherd into a ring to stress that even the bitterest of pills had to be swallowed with dignity. Consolation took the form of an ovation for Melissa Bjånesøy when she stepped up to receive the top scorer's trophy – and for her dejected team-mates when they climbed into the stand for the silver medals they took home from a tournament where they had hoped for a much happier ending.

Meanwhile, German delight was unbounded. Ramona Petzelberger jubilantly lifted the trophy and, while the victorious squad was parading it across the pitch, a spectacular firework display lit up the Italian skies. The dancing Germans hardly gave it a second glance. Their Formula One football in Imola had already offered the spectators an equally spectacular display of fireworks on the pitch.

German No 7, Eunice Beckmann, and Norwegian full-back Anja Sønstevold eye the ball with equal confidence as they engage top gear.



TECHNICAL TOPICS

“The numbers might tell a different story, but the overall impression was that the emphasis was on well-organised defending.” The view expressed by UEFA’s technical team in Italy neatly summed up the apparent contradictions of the 2011 final round. Numerically, the tournament was distorted by the 9 goal final between Germany and Norway which brought the total number of goals to 54, at an average of 3.6 per match. Whereas the 3 knockout games in 2010 had produced 5 goals, their equivalents in 2011 yielded 18. Exactly half of the tournament’s goals were scored in the games involving Norway. On the other hand, the overall total stood comparison with the two previous final tournaments in which the hosts (Belarus in 2009 and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2010) conceded 16 and 19 goals respectively in their 3 group games. In 2011, the Italian hosts were serious contenders for the title and the number of goals scored in the group stage descended from 52 to 36 – a drop of 35%.

THE LINE OF FOUR

In Italy, all eight finalists built their well-organised defending on the foundations of a back four. There were, however, shades of meaning to be drawn on the two adjectives most frequently attached to back four: flat and zonal. The Russian defence featured Daria Makarenko as a “windscreen wiper” behind the other three defenders and, although she was nowhere near as close to the “libero” definition, Spain’s right-hand central defender, Andrea



Swiss striker Cora Canetta tries to break through a Russian defence which operated with a libero and sometimes opted for individual marking.



A delightful through ball allows Elisa Lecce to round Norwegian goalkeeper Ane Fimreite to make it 1-1 during the semi-final in Bellaria.

Pereira, was ready to drop off during the games against the Dutch and the Germans as a precautionary response to the pace of central strikers Lieke Martens and Eunice Beckmann respectively. Nuances on the “zonal” definition were also drawn by the Russian back four, who occasionally resorted to individual marking or to picking up the nearest opponent and following her until the attack broke down. Full-backs’ zones of operation varied considerably, from the exuberant overlapping by Leonie Maier and Carolin Simon/Jennifer Cramer on the German flanks to a more cautious

approach by the Swiss. Central defenders generally operated within small areas and ventured upfield exclusively for set plays.

BUILDING THE DEFENSIVE BLOCK

Although less marked than in the men’s youth development competitions, the trend towards a 4-2-3-1 structure was one of the salient features in Italy. Norway stood alone in using a 4-1-4-1 formation, with the industrious Maria Thorisdottir in the single screening role – and she was called upon to withstand great demands when Italy, in the semi-final, and Germany, in the final, pushed three or even four attackers into the areas between the Norwegians’ lines of four. Russia’s Nadezhda Koltakova sometimes operated as a single screening midfielder but, it could be argued, was able to perform her playmaking duties more effectively when she received additional support in the central area of a 4-4-2 structure, which was also favoured by the Belgians – although they switched to a 4-3-3 formation when chasing results. Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Spain opted for the 4-2-3-1 structure, while Yannick Schwery’s Swiss side showed flexibility in terms of switching from 4-4-2 to a 4-2-3-1 which, in the semi-finals (when the game plan was to encourage the

Germans to push forward and to rely on direct counterattacking, looking for striker Cora Canetta), evolved into a more obvious 4-5-1 formation. In other words, seven of the eight finalists operated with two midfielders situated in front of the back four to form a compact defensive block of six.

The emphasis was on deep defending – statistically illustrated by 64 offside decisions in the 15 matches, with Switzerland (whose opponents were flagged 20 times) holding a higher line with the intention of maintaining a compact unit.

THE FLAIR FACTOR

An overview of the tournament reveals a balance between teams prepared to build from the back and those who preferred to adopt a more direct approach based on a rapid supply of the ball to a target striker. Norway attempted to mix the two styles – building especially well via neat passing combinations during the match against Spain – but were forced to resort to a more direct style when their defensive unit of five was subjected to intense pressure by the Germans during the final. Germany's success, in terms of the quality of their approach play, owed a great deal to the nice balance between the two screening midfielders, Kathrin Hendrich and Isabella Schmid. Schmid was the more adventurous of the two, surging forward to strike two goals from outside the box – one in each match against Norway. The Russian team relied heavily on Nadezhda Koltakova who, from her position in front of the defence, was able to hit accurate long-distance passes and to change the direction of play. Most teams, however, attempted to bring the flair factor into play in more advanced areas.

Spain's attacking catalyst Naiara Beristain puffs out her cheeks in frustration as Dutch defender Marissa Compier shields the ball.

The Belgian team, which produced some impressive attacking moves once into the attacking third, relied on the skills, vision and finishing power of Tessa Wullaert, who started the tournament as a withdrawn striker in the wake of Jana Coryn and then started on the right against the Russians. She was, however, encouraged to act as a "free spirit" in the creation of attacking moves, with Jean-Marie Greven skilfully structuring his midfield to make sure she was given adequate cover.

Naiara Beristain played a similar role in the Spanish lineup, with Angel Vilda, like his Belgian colleague, fielding her in the central and wide-right positions in the line of three behind the main striker. Italy's coach, Corrado Corradini, had resolved pre-tournament concerns about the attacking balance of his team by fielding two small, fast wingers (Katia Coppola and Elisa Lecce) and placing his playmaker in the "hole" behind striker Lisa Alborghetti. Martina Rosucci emerged as one of the tournament's most eye-catching creative elements, playing some delightful diagonal through passes to the wingers via the channels between opposing central defenders and full-backs.

THE FINISHED ARTICLE

What a difference a day makes. On the eve of the final, Maren Meinert was expressing concerns that only 9 goals had emerged from Germany's 38 attempts to hit the opponents' net (on the heels of a qualifying campaign that had yielded only six goals in three matches). "We need too many chances to score and, one day, that will catch up on us. I keep telling the girls that we can't always expect ten clear chances per game so we have to make better use of the ones we get." In the final, the Germans may not have improved their striking ratio but they certainly hit the net – scoring from 8 of their 33 goal attempts, 21 of which had been on target.

By tournament standards, those figures represented sumptuous luxury. Germany's average of 11.8 on-target goal attempts per match was significantly higher than any of their opponents. The accuracy of the German finishing can be gauged by the fact that Maren Meinert's team had only 14 off-target attempts – in other words, 4 out of every 5 were on target. Their nearest rivals were the Russians who, despite elimination in the group stage, matched their average of 15 goal attempts per match. However, only 55% of their finishing was on target.



TECHNICAL TOPICS

The fact that Switzerland reached the semi-finals despite recording only ten accurately directed goal attempts in four matches provoked discussion on philosophies in this age group and a coaching dilemma which Anna Signeul, a member of UEFA's technical team, described as "elegance v efficiency". The challenge is to combine the two.

Going back to the art of finishing, Melissa Bjånesøy's total of seven accounted for one third of the goals attributable to genuine "strikers". But 68% of the scoring in Italy could be credited to "attackers". The trend towards 4-2-3-1 formations was an invitation to debate whether the "3" should be described as attackers or midfielders. In the German and Italian formations, they were clearly identifiable as attackers and one of the strengths of Maren Meinert's team was that their 17 goals were shared among 7 players. By contrast, the Dutch pair of Lieke Martens and Ellen Jansen, who had shared 15 goals in 6 qualifying games, were unable to increase their tally during a final tournament against opponents who pinpointed them as the major sources of danger.

A SAFE PAIR OF HANDS

The old adage that a goalkeeper is half the team was, once again, a focal point for discussion in Italy, where goalkeeping slip-ups exerted decisive influences on the outcome of a number of games – not only in terms of scorelines but also in terms of undermining team morale. In some cases, lack of stature rather than lack of competence proved to be a handicap, while there was variety among the keepers' abilities to build moves from the back by adopting the libero role behind the back four and distributing the ball intelligently with feet or hands. In this respect, Norway's Ane Fimreite – apart from producing some excellent saves – did enough good work to put her among the candidates for the tournament select team...in spite of the goals the Germans put past her in the final. What more can be done to improve standards of goalkeeping at this level?

THE DEAD BALL

Only one penalty was awarded in 15 matches, and Melissa Bjånesøy's spot kick which put Norway 1-0 up against the Dutch was one of ten goals scored from dead-ball

situations. The figure of 18% is significantly lower than the percentages registered at the top level of the men's game. In Italy, half the set-play goals stemmed from corners, including the one curled directly into the Italian net by Caroline Hansen to give Norway their 3-2 win in the semi-finals. Significantly, five of the set-play goals were scored in the three knockout games, meaning that – discounting the Norwegian penalty – only four hit the net during the dozen group games. Observers noted that the overwhelming tendency was to deliver set plays into crowded penalty areas rather than to attempt more elaborate rehearsed moves. Does a tournament of this nature (with limited preparation periods) offer greater opportunities for dead-ball situations to feature in training ground activities?

WINNING THE BALL – AND USING IT

Discounting the own goal, 86% of the open-play goals scored were derived from ball winning and transition at various speeds from defensive to attacking modes. Only six goals were scored as a result of attacking moves during which no opponent touched the ball between the start of



Norwegian striker Melissa Bjånesøy, back to defend a corner, fails to prevent German central defender Luisa Wensing from heading her side into the lead in the final.



With Norwegian defender Maren Knudsen falling heels over head, German striker Lena Lotzen stretches to poke the ball past Ane Fimreite during the opening group game.

the action and its culmination. Winning the ball can, evidently, be the prelude to an elaborated attack – and 30% of the “transition” goals were scored after ten seconds or more of build-up. However, it is a significant fact that no fewer than 40% of the open-play goals at the 2011 finals were scored with a time delay of five seconds or less between ball recovery and the attempt on goal. On seven occasions, loss of the ball enabled the opposition to make an immediate strike at goal and, in six other situations, it sparked off an individual action which culminated in a goal. What’s more, of the other 24 losses of possession which allowed the opposition to score, ball recovery immediately provoked the launch of a forward pass, compared with only three “safety first” back passes aimed at ensuring possession. Belgium’s coach, Jean-Marie Grevin, spoke for many of his colleagues in Cervia when he said that, “an important part of the learning curve at this tournament has been the fact that, whereas you can possibly get away

with mistakes in your domestic league, when you reach this level of competition you have to work on the basis that every mistake in terms of loss of possession can be immediately and severely punished.” The avoidance of errors was especially relevant in a final tournament where

only two games were won by the team conceding the first goal (Germany v Netherlands and Italy v Belgium).

GOALSCORING PATTERNS

The 2010 final tournament had represented a departure from the norm in that more goals had been scored in the first half than after the interval. Normality was restored in 2011, when 61% of the goals were scored during the second half. Germany contributed to this trend by scoring only 4 times during the opening 45 minutes but 13 times after the break – including all 3 of the goals which hit nets during added time at the end of the game.

Minutes	Goals	%
1-15	6	11
16-30	7	13
31-45	6	11
45+	2	4
46-60	13	24
61-75	10	18.5
76-90	7	13
90+	3	5.5

German left-back Carolin Simon, fielded as winger in the final, puts up the barriers as Swiss attacker Eseosa Aigbogun tries to power past her during the semi-final in Imola.



TALKING POINTS

PREPARED FOR THE BEST?

"In terms of their individual development, it's positive that some of the best players emigrate to major leagues, as players do in the men's game," commented the Dutch coach, Johan van Heertum. "But it can lead to a decline in the quality of the national league and, when you come to a final tournament like this one, you realise that the players don't get enough high-pressure games." The Dutch, it has to be said, have adopted a novel approach to this elite youth development issue. Six of Johan's squad were not competing in the top domestic league – but five of those six were playing their football in an Amsterdam-based "talent team" of girls who live, study and train on a "campus" during the week and who travel home at weekends.

In women's football the search for benchmarks usually starts in Germany, where the Bundesliga provides a high-level, competitive environment and where national teams are expected to participate in final tournaments. Maren Meinert's squad benefited from individual programmes designed by a fitness and conditioning coach (significantly, the same person works on the men's and women's teams). There is regular weekly contact by email between club and national team coaches, while the players keep diaries to monitor their workloads.

By contrast, for Jean-Marie Greven, coach of a Belgian team which makes less regular

appearances at final tournaments, preparations were made on a round by round basis. When their place in the final tournament was secured, there was insufficient time to arrange preparation matches, the players had not been given training programmes "because there is no way to control them", and some of the most promising talents, having been recruited by top clubs, spent most of their time on the bench, making "scouting" difficult for the national team's coaching staff.

Russia's coach, Alexander Shagov, encountered similar difficulties, with the add-on that domestic competitions had started only a few days before the trip to Italy and only one member of his squad had been active during the April-May period: striker Anna Cholovyaga had played 36 minutes of a league match. By contrast, Switzerland's coach, Yannick Schwery, had to deal with a situation where the domestic programme had ended a day before his squad travelled to Italy.

Norway's coach, Jarl Torske, in his eighth final tournament, stressed the importance of club-country relationships. "The club coach is the key person in player development," he said, "which means that it's essential to have regular contact. If I can make requests like 'Can she spend some extra time on delivering set plays?' it means that the players are better equipped for their roles in the national team. We also



Swiss midfielder Michelle Probst tries to steal the ball from Belgium's Justine Vanhaevermaet in the Group A encounter between two teams with different preparation problems.

place great importance on coordinating the work done by our youth coaches, and arrange get-togethers five or six times per year."

How important is it to design development projects in conjunction with clubs? What more can be done to prepare elite youth players for top-level competition?

WHAT NEXT?

What happens when you go home? This was one of the frequently asked questions in Italy – and the aim wasn't to elicit short-term answers like 'go on holiday', but to broach issues about the subsequent steps on the player development ladder.

The German champions provided performances to support claims for places in the A team and thus fulfil Maren Meinert's declared objective of producing players for the European and world stages. However, Germany run Under-20 and Under-23 teams, while Norway, their opponents in the final, have an Under-23 team – also under the aegis of their Under-19 coach, Jarl Torske. However, the other six finalists in Italy organise no national team football between Under-19 and senior levels. As Italy's coach, Corrado Corradini, graphically put it, "for these girls it's basically A team or bust. Many of



German captain Ramona Petzelberger nudges the ball away from a gritty challenge by Norway's Caroline Hansen during the group game in Cervia.

our Under-19 internationals actually stop playing altogether – which, in my opinion, indicates a need to restructure women's football." Should more be done to offer international opportunities to the "After-19s"?

CAREER OR FOOTBALL?

This is not so much a question to be answered but rather a debating point about whether such a question needs to arise. In Italy, the news that the 2012 finals were to be shifted into July was greeted with a sigh of relief. Some of the coaches felt that, in 2011, their chances had been affected by the dates assigned to the final tournament.

The issue had come to the fore in 2010 and continued to provoke discussion in Italy. Spain's coach, Angel Vilda, who had travelled to Skopje a year earlier with only half of his regular squad, experienced lesser – but still significant – problems in 2011, when his list of absentees included Amanda Sampedro, one of the pre-tournament favourites to be among the star performers. She had gone along with her parents' view that priority had to be given to the university entrance examinations which would shape her future career. "Playing at this time of the year," Angel Vilda insisted, "it is very difficult for Spain to be competitive."

This was by no means a unilateral sentiment. The Football Union of Russia succeeded in having exam dates rearranged. The

Dutch team's coach, Johan van Heertum, admitted that the quality of training during the two-week run-up to the finals had been "not good enough because there was so much anxiety about the exams that finished on the day before we travelled." Some of Maren Meinert's squad did exams immediately prior to the tournament or during it. And the Norwegians had to arrange for embassy personnel to be on site in Cervia to testify that procedures at the examinations which had to be done locally were totally legal and above board. Players could be excused for not being able to focus 100% on their football.

It is always a pity when players who have helped their team to qualify are not available for the finals. The situation is aggravated by the previous debating point. There is frequently a void beyond Under-19 level. The general theme, however, is that in the women's game, where opportunities for earning a living are limited, can more be done to avoid football v career conflicts?

OUT OF POSITION?

"Why are so many playing out of position?" The question was asked by a reporter in Cervia who had noted positional changes in relation to the roles habitually played by some of the girls at their clubs. For the reporter, this could have a negative impact on performances. Is this a legitimate standpoint? Inevitably, some clubs opt to field the best footballers in pivotal roles within the team structure. And, in Italy, a significant number of players were fielded in different positions from game to game, with Germany's left-back Carolin Simon, deployed as a winger in the final, providing a shining example. At this level, is "playing out of position" a negative factor? Or is positional flexibility a positive element in terms of player development?

Dutch substitute Marieke de Boer tries to keep pace with Alexia Putellas, member of a Spanish squad affected by university entrance exams.



WINNING COACH



Maren Meinert, with assistant Bettina Wiegmann on her left, jubilantly lifts the Under-19 trophy in Imola.

Maren Meinert's instinctive reaction to the final whistle was to console her Norwegian counterpart Jarl Torske, distraught at the magnitude of his team's defeat. One of her subsequent moves as her jubilant players danced on the pitch was performed at greater speed. Demonstrating that coaching has not taken a heavy toll on the fitness she acquired as an international player, she sprinted away from a group of players who were determined to give her a celebratory drenching. "We like to have fun at times," she had said on the morning of the final, "but we also like to be disciplined."

A couple of hours earlier, during the team's warm-up on the pitch, Maren and her assistant, Bettina Wiegmann, had walked around, quietly delivering personal messages to the players who had key roles to play in the final. It was the last chapter in the preparations which had started with a two-hour training session during the morning preceding the match. "We prefer not to train at kick-off time," she explained, "as we find the players' concentration is better earlier in the day." Concentration was also the key word during the session on the morning of the final which Maren

described as "wake-up games including small sessions like 5 v 2." Then, as usual, she announced her starting line-up during the pre-lunch team meeting at the hotel. Her philosophy – and one which she respected in Italy – is to give some football to the entire squad, though she concedes "this is maybe easier for us than for some other countries, because we usually have a strong group."

Coaching a German women's team is not only about meeting high expectations in terms of technique, athletic preparation and tactical maturity. It also entails acceptance of the pressures attached to the label of "favourite". "Our clear objective," Maren explains, "is to prepare players for the A team – which is why we have regular briefings with Silvia (Neid) and Uli (assistant coach Ulrike Ballweg). This means using the same playing systems from Under-15s right the way up, and making sure that they are completely aware of their roles within the team structure. But it's also about equipping the players in other ways. That's why there's an emphasis on discipline and the need to perform as a team member and not just as an individual. We have a lot of rules in the team camp – which provide

a good basis for the preparation of games and tournaments." In this instance, the long-standing disciplinary foundations were especially useful during a period when many of the players were preoccupied with exams and when the season had been distorted by preparations for the senior FIFA World Cup finals in Germany. Maren got her squad together just four days before the opening game against Norway.

"My approach," she says, "is to be direct and honest with the players. I don't set out to be their friend. I'm always the coach. At this level, the players are grown-ups and they are able to take their own decisions, on and off the pitch. On the other hand, they are young and they can make mistakes. I remember when I was a player at the age of 18. It's a part of your life that can be a bumpy road. So the important thing is to talk to them and help them to understand why something they have done might be wrong. Ideally, they should all take something home from a tournament for their lives."

After a memorable final in Imola, Maren's players also went home with gold medals.



Against a background of worried faces on the German bench, Maren Meinert issues instructions during the early phase of the final against Norway.

THE UEFA TECHNICAL TEAM



The final tournament in Italy was covered by a technical team formed by Anne Noë of Belgium and Anna Signeul of Sweden.

Anne Noë took over as head coach of the Belgian national team in 1999 as part of a professional life divided among various roles. She teaches football at the Catholic University of Leuven, works as a physical education teacher and is heavily involved in elite player development programmes. As a goalkeeper, she won the Belgian league title six times with Standard Fémina Liège and lifted the cup four times – thrice with Standard and once with Rapide Wezemaal. She captained the Belgian women's national team in a career which spanned 60 international matches before she started her coaching career by taking charge of the national Under-19 side in 1994.

Anna Signeul is currently head coach of the Scottish national team. Anna made 240 appearances as a player for four different clubs in Sweden's top division and obtained her coaching licences so early that she spent the last decade of her career both playing and coaching. After five spells as head coach of four top clubs (two of them at the club where she hung up her boots, Strömsbo IF), she joined the national association's coaching set-up in 1996, was champion of Europe with the Under-18s in 1999 and worked with the senior national team until October 2004, when she took over as technical director and national team coach at the Scottish FA.



Anna Signeul and Anne Noë during one of the UEFA technical team's daily analysis sessions.

TECHNICAL TEAM SELECTION

No	Name	Country
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Goalkeepers

1	Pascale KÜFFER	Switzerland
1	Lisa SCHMITZ	Germany

Defenders

4	Johanna ELSIG	Germany
5	Elena LINARI	Italy
3	Carolin SIMON	Germany
3	Ingrid SØNDENÅ	Norway
5	Luisa WENSING	Germany
4	Siri WORM	Netherlands

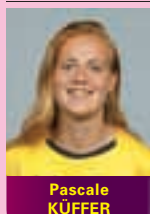
Midfielders

10	Naiara BERISTAIN	Spain
6	Kathrin HENDRICH	Germany
20	Nadezhda KOLTAKOVA	Russia
10	Martina ROSUCCI	Italy
8	Isabella SCHMID	Germany
6	Maria THORISDOTTIR	Norway
10	Lia WÄLTI	Switzerland
10	Tessa WULLAERT	Belgium

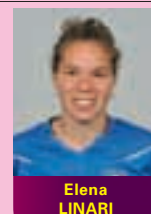
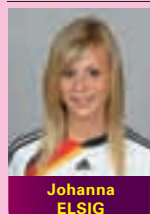
Attackers

7	Eunice BECKMANN	Germany
10	Melissa BJÅNESØY	Norway
11	Katia COPPOLA	Italy
11	Kristine HEGLAND	Norway
11	Lena LOTZEN	Germany
10	Ramona PETZELBERGER	Germany

Goalkeepers



Defenders



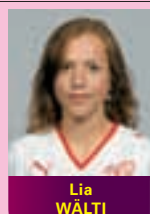
Defenders



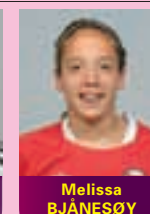
Midfielders



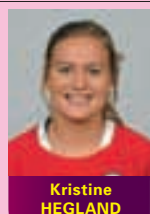
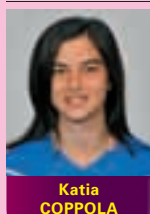
Midfielders



Attackers



Attackers





BELGIUM



COACH

Jean-Marie GREVEN
06/01/1961



I'm a little disappointed because we tried to play some good football in an attractive attacking style which we hoped would also produce results. But individual errors cost us very dearly. That was our main problem throughout the tournament. We received a lot of favourable feedback about the way we played but we kept throwing it away with silly mistakes. We learned an important lesson – that mistakes are punished at this level and that unless we stop conceding goals like that, it will be very difficult to continue to compete with the very best.

No	Player	Born	Pos	SUI	RUS	ITA	G	Club
1	Quirina D'HAESELEIR	15.05.1993	GK	90	90			RSC Anderlecht
2	Stefanie NINCLAUS	05.02.1993	DF	15	77	55+		Zulte Waregem
3	Ella VAN KERKHOVEN	20.11.1993	DF	90	90	90		Oud-Heverlee Leuven
4	Kimberly VERBIST	20.07.1993	DF	90	82	16		WD Lierse SK
5	Anaïs RENIER	16.11.1993	DF	90	90	90		WS Woluwé
6	Nina VINDEVOGHEL	16.04.1992	MF	57		74		Club Brugge KV
7	Justine VANHAEVERMAET	29.04.1992	MF	90	90	90	1	Sinaai Girls
8	Maria-Laura AGA	23.06.1994	MF	45+	90	90	2	R. Standard de Liège
9	Jana CORYN	26.06.1992	FW	90	90			Zulte Waregem
10	Tessa WULLAERT	19.03.1993	MF	90	90	90		Zulte Waregem
11	Ellen CHARLIER	14.05.1993	FW	45*	8	45+		Oud-Heverlee Leuven
12	Anke LANGERAERT	05.01.1993	GK			90		Sinaai Girls
13	Yana DANIELS	08.05.1992	FW	33	66	90		Oud-Heverlee Leuven
14	Silke DEMEYERE	20.06.1992	MF		13	35*		Zulte Waregem
15	Mélanie MIGNON	08.03.1993	MF	75	24	90		R. Standard de Liège
16	Jolien NUYTEN	03.08.1992	DF					Club Brugge KV
17	Silke SNEYERS	17.09.1992	MF		90			DVC Eva's Tienen
18	Céline VERDONCK	07.03.1994	DF	90		45*		R. Standard de Liège

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Belgium v Switzerland



- 4-2-3-1, switching to 4-3-3 with single screening midfielder when chasing result
- In back four, emphasis on long passing to lone striker
- Fluent combination play once ball was in opponents' half
- No 10 the free spirit – technique, vision, strong shooting; well supported by team-mates
- Good balance between screening midfielders: No 5 more adventurous; No 7 up for set plays
- High fitness level, good anticipation and ball-winning, strong central defenders
- Good team ethic and fighting spirit; let down by individual errors



GERMANY



COACH

Maren MEINERT, 05/08/1973
 Bettina Wiegmann, 07/10/1971¹
¹ In charge during qualifying
 (Maren Meinert on maternity leave)



“
 The main thing is to thank Bettina [Wiegmann] for all her hard work throughout a year when I was hopping on and off the coach's seat. She is a little bit shy but she was really the coach during this campaign. In the second half of the final, we worked out how to score with almost every shot, whereas before that we were creating so many chances but always waiting for a good result which never came. The victory tasted sweeter than in 2007 because when I started to coach I had two straight wins and I probably began to expect to reach the final every year. Then, after four years without success, it was important for us to win the title again. It tastes sweeter because I now appreciate how much hard work is required to win it.”

No	Player	Born	Pos	NOR	ESP	NED	SUI	NOR	G	Club
1	Lisa SCHMITZ	04.05.1992	GK	90	90		90	90		Bayer 04 Leverkusen
2	Leonie MAIER	29.09.1992	DF	90	90	45+	33*	90		SC 07 Bad Neuenahr
3	Carolin SIMON	24.11.1992	DF	90	64		89	58		Hamburger SV
4	Johanna ELSIG	01.11.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	90		Bayer 04 Leverkusen
5	Luisa WENSING	08.02.1993	DF	90	90	90	90	90	1	Rumlen 2001 Duisburg
6	Kathrin HENDRICH	06.04.1992	MF	90	90	45*	90	64		Bayer 04 Leverkusen
7	Eunice BECKMANN	08.02.1992	FW	73	81		67	63	2	FCR 2001 Duisburg
8	Isabella SCHMID	06.03.1993	MF	90	90	45+	90	90	3	SC Freiburg
9	Nicole ROLSER	07.02.1992	MF	66	31*					SC 07 Bad Neuenahr
10	Ramona PETZELBERGER	13.11.1992	FW	90	90	90	90	90	2	SC 07 Bad Neuenahr
11	Lena LOTZEN	11.09.1993	FW	83	90	24	90	90	5	FC Bayern München
12	Friederike ABT	07.07.1994	GK			90				HS Borussia Friedenstal
13	Sofia NATI	19.04.1993	FW			45*				SG Essen-Schönenbeck
14	Kristin DEMANN	07.04.1993	DF			90	90			1. FFC Turbine Potsdam
15	Ivana RUDELIC	25.01.1992	FW	17	9	90	23	27	2	FC Bayern München
16	Jennifer CRAMER	24.02.1993	MF	7	59+	90	1	90		1. FFC Turbine Potsdam
17	Marie PYKO	08.08.1993	MF			90		32		SC 07 Bad Neuenahr
18	Anja Maïke HEGENAUER	09.12.1992	DF	24	26	66	57+	26	2	SC Freiburg

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; | = Injured/ill

Germany v Norway (final)



- 4-2-3-1 with twin midfield screen; rapid transition to 4-5-1 when defending
- Efficient, disciplined, well-structured unit with clearly defined roles
- Effective variation between combination play and direct attacking
- Skill in all departments; 2 v 1 situations created by driving at opponents with ball
- Balanced twin screens, available during build-up, good support for front four
- Attack well led by No 7 or No 11 – pace, skill, physical presence, good links with wingers
- Flanks well used by full-backs, fast wingers; good diagonal switches of play



ITALY



COACH

Corrado CORRADINI
01/07/1944



It was a great group of girls, whose only interest was to play well, enjoy their football and entertain the crowd. There was plenty of enthusiasm and, even when I told them to take it easier in the final group game, there was no way of slowing them down. The semi-final was a very entertaining game and facing teams like Norway helps you to understand what European football is all about and what it takes to compete at this level. Afterwards, I told the girls that they shouldn't cry because these defeats help to improve and develop them as players.

No	Player	Born	Pos	RUS	SUI	BEL	NOR	G	Club
1	Valentina CASAROLI	08.07.1993	GK			90			GS Roma CF
2	Cecilia SALVAI	02.12.1993	DF	90		90	90	1	ACF Torino
3	Michela LEDRI	12.05.1992	DF	90	90	90	90		CF Bardolino Verona
4	Michela FRANCO	27.01.1992	MF	90	90		90		ACF Torino
5	Elena LINARI	15.04.1994	DF	90	90		90		ACF Firenze
6	Roberta FILIPPOZZI	10.03.1992	DF	90	90	90	82	1	GS Roma CF
7	Marta MASON	10.02.1993	FW	45*	26	5	19		ASD Reggiana
8	Claudia MAURI	18.12.1992	MF	90	90	90	90		ASD Mozzanica
9	Lisa ALBORGHETTI	19.06.1993	FW	89	90	34	90	2	ACF Brescia
10	Martina ROSUCCI	09.05.1992	MF	90	90		90		ACF Torino
11	Katia COPPOLA	05.05.1993	FW	90	86	85	90	3	FCF Como 2000
12	Laura GIULIANI	05.06.1993	GK	90	90		90		FCF Como 2000
13	Benedetta DE ANGELIS	15.05.1992	DF		9	90			GS Roma CF
14	Francesca VITALE	28.03.1992	DF			90	8		ACF Milan
15	Valentina PEDRETTI	05.10.1993	DF		81				PCA Atalanta
16	Alessia VENTURINI	11.04.1993	DF			90			ASD Fortitudo Mozzecane
17	Eleonora PEDERZOLI	12.03.1993	DF	1	4	56			AFD Grifo Perugia
18	Elisa LECCE	03.02.1993	FW	45+	64	90	71	1	ASD Napoli CF

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Italy v Norway



- Variations on 4-3-3, with 4-2-4 attacking and transition to 4-5-1 on loss of ball
- Rapid defence-to-attack transition with four available for through pass
- Enthusiastic, hardworking team with high levels of physical and mental strength
- Compact through middle; good interaction between central defence, midfield screens
- Playmakers No 9 and No 10 covering wide area, initiating and finishing attacks
- Pressure on ball carrier from all players, emphasis on rapid ball recovery
- Good technique, ability to run with ball, creative passing, able to dictate tempo



NETHERLANDS



COACH

Johan VAN HEERTUM
31/01/1966



“ We approached the tournament with the idea of improving our domination of the midfield areas but, in each match, there were periods when we struggled to cope with the opposition’s pressure and we were unable to supply our striker, Lieke Martens, or the two wingers. It was important in player development terms because they are not subjected to that sort of pressing in their domestic matches. The requirement is to make fast runs and better movement off the ball. We tried to create this situation in training and we coped better game by game. But we knew the group would be difficult for us. ”

No	Player	Born	Pos	ESP	NOR	GER	G	Club
1	Laura DU RY	13.08.1992	GK	90	90	90		ADO Den Haag
2	Marissa COMPIER	24.01.1992	DF	90	90	90		FC Utrecht
3	Desiree VAN LUNTEREN	30.12.1992	DF	75	90	90		AZ Alkmaar
4	Siri WORM	20.04.1992	DF	90	90	90		FC Twente
5	Kirsten BAKKER	15.02.1992	DF	90	45*	56		FC Twente
6	Merel VAN DONGEN	11.02.1993	MF	90	90	90		Ter Leede
7	Nadia COOLEN	17.08.1994	FW	82	90	90		FC Geelen Zuid
8	Tessel MIDDAG	23.12.1992	MF	90	90	79		Swift
9	Lieke MARTENS	16.12.1992	FW	90	90	90		VVV Venlo
10	Ellen JANSEN	06.10.1992	MF	90	65		I	FC Twente
11	Shanice VAN DE SANDEN	02.10.1992	FW	26	90	90	1	SC Heerenveen
12	Pia RIJSDIJK	25.03.1992	MF	64	45+	90	1	Ter Leede
13	Linda BAKKER	13.02.1993	FW		25			FC Twente
14	Mauri VAN DE WETERING	25.01.1992	FW	8		11		Willem II
15	Pascalie TANG	10.04.1993	MF					Amstelveen Heemraad
16	Marieke UBACHS	15.10.1993	GK					De Ster
17	Marieke DE BOER	18.07.1992	MF	15		34		SC Heerenveen
18	Maud ROETGERING	31.07.1992	DF					FC Twente

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Netherlands v Spain



- 4-2-3-1 with twin screening midfielders and wingers starting wide
- Disciplined back four, with central defenders, screening midfielders forming compact block
- Rapid transition to 4-5-1 defending, with wingers dropping deep
- Transitions to attack based on direct supply to skilful, fast striker, Martens
- Tactically mature; all players well-drilled in individual and collective roles
- Aimed to pressurise and dominate opponents in midfield areas
- Strong team ethic with well-coordinated movements, positional discipline



NORWAY



COACH

Jarl TORSKE
05/06/1949



“
We felt that we had improved throughout the tournament and we were in good spirits. The girls were singing on the team bus and good performances had given confidence to a group that was full of energy. So the second half of the final was a terrible experience for a coach because everything was going wrong and you felt helpless. We couldn't match their speed and we gave them too much space. It was Germany at their best and we couldn't cope with their performance. I had said before the final that, whatever happened, I would be proud of what we had achieved. But the result in the final spoiled a tournament which, in many ways, had been a very positive and enjoyable experience.
”

No	Player	Born	Pos	GER	NED	ESP	ITA	GER	G	Club
1	Ane FIMREITE	07.07.1993	GK	90	90	90	90	90		Avaldsnes IL
2	Anja SØNSTEVOLD	21.06.1992	DF	90	90	90	90	74		Kolbotn IL
3	Ingrid SØNDENÅ	20.12.1993	DF	90	90	90	90	90		Roa IL
4	Maren KNUDSEN	24.07.1993	DF	90	90	90	90	90		Arna-Bjornar
5	Anette TENGESDAL	28.04.1992	DF	90						Klepp IL
6	Maria THORISDOTTIR	05.06.1993	MF	90	90	87	90	90		Klepp IL
7	Andrine HEGERBERG	06.06.1993	MF	73	90	79	90	90	1	Kolbotn IL
8	Ina SKAUG	02.04.1992	MF	45*	45+	90	90	90		Stabaek FK
9	Caroline HANSEN	18.02.1995	MF	85	15	45+	29	45+	1	Stabaek FK
10	Melissa BJÅNESØY	18.04.1992	FW	90	75	90	90	90	7	IL Sandviken
11	Kristine HEGLAND	08.08.1992	FW	90	90	90	90	90	2	Arna-Bjornar
12	Kirvil ODDEN	29.07.1992	GK							Roa IL
13	Cathrine DEKKERHUS	17.09.1992	MF	45+	89	45*	71	70		Stabaek FK
14	Ada HEGERBERG	10.07.1995	FW	17	90	90	61	45*	1	Kolbotn IL
15	Else VASSBØ	01.03.1992	FW		1	3				Klepp IL
16	Ida AARDALEN	27.07.1993	DF		45*			16		Sarpsborg 08
17	Josephine STAUTLAND	28.08.1993	FW							Avaldsnes IL
18	Guro REITEN	26.07.1994	MF	5		11	19	20	1	Sunndal IL

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Norway v Germany (final)



- Variations on 4-3-3, with No 6 as single screening midfielder
- Compact 4-1-4-1 deep defending + counters based on direct passes in depth
- Attack spearheaded by No 10; excellent finishing, off-the-ball movement
- Dangerous free-kicks delivered to opposition box, even from own half
- Ball winning based on anticipation, speed into tackle, strong team ethic
- Good use of flanks by fast wingers, quality crosses from both sides
- Strong in the air; influential goalkeeper; good saves, read the game well



RUSSIA



COACH

Alexander SHAGOV
10/07/1962



We were a bit unlucky in that, in each game, we created chances but didn't take enough of them. The players may have lost in terms of results but they have won in terms of learning. They gained a lot from the experience of playing in a team tournament and measuring themselves against the best in Europe. It was a handicap that the club season had not started when we travelled to Italy and the players will now be able to go back to their clubs with clear ideas on what they need to do. In many cases, this will be to do individual training to improve their technique.

No	Player	Born	Pos	ITA	BEL	SUI	G	Club
1	Margarita SHIROKOVA	14.01.1992	GK	90	90	90		Zorkiy Krasnogorsk
2	Tatiana ANANYEVA	26.04.1992	DF	90	90	45*	1	Rossiyanka
3	Ksenia VESELUKHA	26.01.1994	MF	90	90	23		Kubanochka Krasnodar
4	Mariya KUTUSHEVA	24.12.1993	DF	45*	51+	90		Zvezda 2005 Perm
6	Alena MAMONOVA	18.01.1993	DF					Chertanovo
7	Karina BLYNSKAYA	05.05.1993	MF	28	42	48+		SHVSM Izmaylovo
8	Anastasiia POZDEEVA	12.06.1993	MF	45+	65	42*		CSKA VVS Samara
9	Snezhana KOBELEVA	30.05.1993	FW	90	90	90		UPI Ekaterinburg
10	Anna CHOLOVYAGA	08.05.1992	FW	90	90	90	2	Rossiyanka
12	Victoria NOSENKO	04.10.1994	GK					Kubanochka Krasnodar
13	Valentina ORLOVA	19.04.1993	MF	90	39*	90		CSKA VVS Samara
14	Kristina MASHKOVA	30.06.1992	DF	90	90	90		Mordovochka
15	Ilona VLASENKO	14.08.1993	MF	71	48	67		Zvezda 2005 Perm
16	Ekaterina PANTYUKHINA	09.04.1993	FW					Zvezda 2005 Perm
18	Daria MAKARENKO	07.03.1992	DF	90	90	90		Irtysch Omsk
19	Marina KISKONEN	19.03.1994	FW		25	45+		Chertanovo
20	Nadezhda KOLTAKOVA	04.06.1992	MF	62	90	90	1	Rossiyanka
21	Yulia KORNEYCHENKO	08.08.1992	FW	19				Kubanochka Krasnodar

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Russia v Switzerland



- Flexible 4-4-2; 4-1-3-2 v Belgium with No 20 as single screening midfielder
- Disciplined back four with defensive priorities and No 18 dropping deep as libero
- Competent goalkeeper with good feet; effective distribution of ball
- No 20 the pivotal playmaker; accurate passing, vision, well-struck diagonal passes
- Frequent use of individual marking; strong work ethic throughout team
- Balanced attacking pair – No 10 as target; No 9 making darting runs; No 3 pushing forward to support
- Dangerous long-range shooting and set plays; speed on flanks with good crosses



SPAIN



COACH

Angel VILDA
15/09/1948



“Against the Netherlands, our ball circulation was not as I had hoped. Against Germany we were close to getting a draw and I was very proud of my competitive players. Then, against Norway, you prepare for the game and then they score in the seventh minute and everything changes. The tournament in Italy was of high quality. They were my fourth finals in five years and it’s clear that women’s football is developing at a rapid rate. We can only do our best to continue to improve in the future – and that is our objective at the moment.”

No	Player	Born	Pos	NED	GER	NOR	G	Club
1	Sandra PAÑOS	04.11.1992	GK	90	90	90		Levante UD
2	ETZTIZEN Merino López	07.02.1992	DF	90	90	90		Athletic Club de Bilbao
3	Laura Gutiérrez ‘GUTI’	02.05.1994	MF	34	90	90		FC Barcelona
4	MARTA Luna Iriarte	29.05.1992	DF		32	45*		SD Lagunak
5	ANDREA Pereira	19.09.1993	DF	90	90	90		RCD Espanyol
6	LEYRE Fernández	23.01.1992	MF	29	45+	90		CA Osasuna
7	ALEXIA Putellas	04.02.1994	FW	90	90			RCD Espanyol
8	Ana BUCETA Rodríguez	04.12.1992	MF	56	90	90		Recreativo El Olivo
9	Paloma LÁZARO	28.09.1993	FW	6		90		Rayo Vallecano Madrid
10	NAIARA Beristain	04.01.1992	MF	90	90	90	1	Athletic Club de Bilbao
11	Olga GARCÍA	01.06.1992	FW	84	22	90		FC Barcelona
12	IRAIA Pérez de Heredia	14.01.1994	FW	90	I	I		CD Aurrerá Vitoria
13	Dolores Gallardo ‘LOLA’	10.06.1993	GK					Sevilla FC
14	ARENE Altonaga	25.02.1993	DF		68			Athletic Club de Bilbao
15	Leila OUAHABI	22.03.1993	DF	90	45*			FC Barcelona
16	Nagore CALDERÓN	02.06.1993	MF	61	90	90		Club Atlético de Madrid
17	Silvia RUIZ García	05.12.1992	MF					Athletic Club de Bilbao
18	Marina AGOUES	14.12.1992	DF	90	58	45+		Real Sociedad de Fútbol

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = injured/ill
1 goal was an own goal by Norway’s Maren Knudsen

Spain v Netherlands



- Flexible 4-3-3 with single (v Germany) or double midfield screen
- High levels of individual technique in all departments of the team
- Good use of flanks with skilful wingers willing to take on opponents
- Attacks usually launched by goalkeeper or central defenders, especially No 2
- Neat short-passing combinations in midfield – except v Norway
- No 10 an influential creative element operating across all attacking positions
- Dangerous long-range shooting and well-rehearsed set plays



SWITZERLAND



COACH

Yannick SCHWERY
15/09/1970



“
My team ran themselves into the ground, so I have to congratulate them – and also my technical staff, who also worked very hard. It was an incredible achievement to reach the semi-finals and praise is due to Pascale Küffer, who I thought was the best goalkeeper in the tournament. We are not yet good enough to pass the ball around as well as Germany do, so our plan was to play five in the middle during the semi-final, to suck them forward and to hit through balls over the top for Canetta. But the Germans won the ball back too quickly. But Switzerland made it to the World Cup and another wonderful experience.
”

No	Player	Born	Pos	BEL	ITA	RUS	GER	G	Club
1	Pascale KÜFFER	13.11.1992	GK	90	90	90	90		FC Schlieren
2	Gwendoline FAI	04.11.1993	DF				28		BSC Young Boys
3	Carolyn MALLAUN	30.03.1992	DF			90	90		FC Yverdon
4	Carina GERBER	08.05.1993	DF	90	90	90	90		BSC Young Boys
5	Lea HINNEN	05.07.1993	DF	3	5	17	7		FFC Zuckwil 05
6	Cinzia JÖRG	23.05.1992	MF	72	73	73	83		FC St. Gallen
7	Michelle PROBST	31.10.1992	MF	90	90	90	90	1	FFC Zuckwil 05
8	Chantal FIMIAN	19.09.1993	DF	90	85	14*	1		Grasshopper-Club
9	Cora CANETTA	06.01.1992	FW	87	90	90	90	1	FC Zürich
10	Lia WÄLTI	19.04.1993	MF	90	90	90	90		BSC Young Boys
11	Eseosa AIGBOGUN	23.05.1993	FW	90	90	84	90	1	FC Zürich
12	Sina AUTINO	25.05.1992	GK						FC Therwil
13	Jasmin SCHWEER	02.03.1992	DF		45+		8		FC St. Gallen
14	Nadine FÄSSLER	07.08.1993	FW	18	17	76+	62	1	FC St. Gallen
15	Sophie HERZOG	04.03.1993	MF	62	45*				FC Basel
16	Nadine BAKER	08.05.1992	FW	28		6			FC Zürich
17	Corina SANER	08.05.1993	DF	90	90	90	82	1	Grasshopper-Club
18	Natasha GENSETTER	04.12.1993	DF	90	90	90	90		Grasshopper-Club

Pos = Position; G = Goals; S = Suspended; * = Started; + = Substitute; I = Injured/ill

Switzerland v Germany



- 4-4-2 with twin midfield screen, switching to 4-2-3-1 v Russia and 4-5-1 v Germany
- Skilful defenders comfortable under pressure, seeking constructive solutions
- Capable goalkeeper; crucial saves, sensible initiation of build-ups
- Constructive passing in midfield; good supply to twin strikers Nos 9 + 11
- Rapid attack to defence transitions, getting all players behind the ball
- Sober, efficient defending with full-backs rarely pushing forward
- High fitness levels; hardworking, motivated unit with strong team ethic

RESULTS

GROUP A

30 May 2011

Italy – Russia 2-1 (1-1)

1-0 Katia Coppola (3) 1-1 Nadezhda Koltakova (13) 2-1 Lisa Alborghetti (56)
Attendance: 1,050 at Stadio Romeo Galli, Imola; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: RUS: Anastasiia Pozdeeva (63), Daria Makarenko (77)

Referee: Sandra Braz Bastos (Portugal) / **Assistants:** Zeferino; Demirel /

Fourth official: Pirie

Switzerland – Belgium 4-1 (2-0)

1-0 Eseosa Aigbogun (23) 2-0 Corina Saner (35) 2-1 Maria-Laura Aga (58)
 3-1 Michelle Probst (89) 4-1 Nadine Fässler (90+3)

Attendance: 300 at Stadio Enrico Nanni, Bellaria; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: BEL: Kimberly Verbist (45+2), Céline Verdonck (89)

Referees: Pernilla Larsson (Sweden) / Hima; Kyriakou / Asulin

2 June 2011

Italy – Switzerland 1-0 (0-0)

1-0 Katia Coppola (84)

Attendance: 1,100 at Stadio Germano Todoli, Cervia; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: ITA: Elena Linari (54), Marta Mason (67), Michela Franco (80),
 Martina Rosucci (90+4) / SUI: Lia Wälti (49)

Referees: Lilach Asulin (Israel) / Demirel; Zeferino / Lehtovaara

Russia – Belgium 3-1 (1-1)

1-0 Anna Cholovyaga (22) 1-1 Justine Vanhaevermaet (36)

2-1 Anna Cholovyaga (62) 3-1 Tatiana Anyeyeva (64)

Attendance: 750 at Stadio Tullo Morgagni, Forlì; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: None

Referees: Séverine Zinck (France) / Sever; Massey / Larsson

5 June 2011

Belgium – Italy 1-3 (1-0)

1-0 Maria-Laura Aga (30) 1-1 Cecilia Salvai (64) 1-2 Roberta Filippozzi (67)
 1-3 Lisa Alborghetti (69)

Attendance: 1,000 at Stadio Enrico Nanni, Bellaria; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: BEL: Céline Verdonck (42), Yana Daniels (78) /

ITA: Roberta Filippozzi (54)

Referees: Lina Lehtovaara (Finland) / Kyriakou; Onica / Braz Bastos

Russia – Switzerland 0-0

Attendance: 500 at Stadio Germano Todoli, Cervia; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: RUS: Karina Blynskaya (54), Marina Kiskonen (61),
 Nadezhda Koltakova (77) / SUI: Cora Canetta (55)

Referees: Pernilla Larsson (Sweden) / Demirel; Foskolou / Zinck

GROUP STANDINGS

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Italy	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
2	Switzerland	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
3	Russia	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
4	Belgium	3	0	0	3	3	10	0

GROUP B

30 May 2011

Germany – Norway 3-1 (2-1)

1-0 Isabella Schmid (26) 1-1 Melissa Bjånesøy (35) 2-1 Lena Lotzen (45+1)
 3-1 Anja Maike Hegener (90+3)

Attendance: 500 at Stadio Germano Todoli, Cervia; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: GER: Anja Maike Hegener (87) / NOR: Maria Thorisdottir (39)

Referee: Séverine Zinck (France) / Foskolou; Onica / Vitulano

Spain – Netherlands 1-1 (1-0)

1-0 Naiara Beristain (11) 1-1 Pia Rijsdijk (49)

Attendance: 1,000 at Stadio Tullo Morgagni, Forlì; KO 17.00

Yellow card: ESP: Leila Ouahabi (67)

Referee: Lina Lehtovaara (Finland) / Massey; Sever / Farinelli

2 June 2011

Germany – Spain 1-0 (0-0)

1-0 Eunice Beckmann (57)

Attendance: 500 at Stadio Enrico Nanni, Bellaria; KO 17.00

Yellow card: GER: Leonie Maier (90)

Referee: Sandra Braz Bastos (Portugal) / Kyriakou; Hima / Farinelli

Norway – Netherlands 3-0 (2-0)

1-0 Melissa Bjånesøy (6-pen) 2-0 Kristine Hegland (39)

3-0 Melissa Bjånesøy (57)

Attendance: 980 at Stadio Romeo Galli, Imola; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: None

Referee: Morag Pirie (Scotland) / Onica; Foskolou / Vitulano

5 June 2011

Norway – Spain 5-1 (3-0)

1-0 Melissa Bjånesøy (7) 2-0 Andrine Hegerberg (33)

3-0 Kristine Hegland (45+1) 3-1 Maren Knudsen (61-own goal)

4-1 Guro Reiten (85) 5-1 Melissa Bjånesøy (90)

Attendance: 950 at Stadio Tullo Morgagni, Forlì; KO 17.00

Yellow card: ESP: Leyre Fernández (64)

Referee: Morag Pirie (Scotland) / Massey; Hima / Vitulano

Netherlands – Germany 1-2 (0-0)

1-0 Shanice van de Sanden (58) 1-1 Lena Lotzen (67) 1-2 Ivana Rudelic (90+1)

Attendance: 950 at Stadio Romeo Galli, Imola; KO 17.00

Yellow card: NED: Mauri van de Wetering (84)

Referee: Lilach Asulin (Israel) / Zeferino; Sever / Farinelli

GROUP STANDINGS

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Germany	3	3	0	0	6	2	9
2	Norway	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
3	Netherlands	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
4	Spain	3	0	1	2	2	7	1

SEMI-FINALS

8 June 2011

Italy – Norway 2-3 (1-1)

0-1 Melissa Bjånesøy (12) 1-1 Elisa Lecce (22) 1-2 Ada Hegerberg (48)
2-2 Katia Coppola (49) 2-3 Caroline Hansen (65)

Attendance: 800 at Stadio Enrico Nanni, Bellaria; KO 17.00

Yellow cards: ITA: Michela Ledri (73) / NOR: Caroline Hansen (83)

Referee: Séverine Zinck (France) / Sever; Hima / Braz Bastos

Germany - Switzerland 3-1 (1-1)

1-0 Ramona Petzelberger (21) 1-1 Cora Canetta (38) 2-1 Eunice Beckmann (54)
3-1 Lena Lotzen (84)

Attendance: 980 at Stadio Romeo Galli, Imola; KO 20.00

Yellow card: GER: Carolin Simon (88)

Referee: Morag Pirie (Scotland) / Massey; Kyriakou / Larsson

FINAL

11 June 2011

Norway – Germany 1-8 (0-1)

0-1 Luisa Wensing (29) 0-2 Isabella Schmid (50) 0-3 Lena Lotzen (55)
0-4 Ramona Petzelberger (58) 0-5 Lena Lotzen (60) 0-6 Ivana Rudelic (70)
1-6 Melissa Bjånesøy (72) 1-7 Isabella Schmid (79) 1-8 Anja Maike Hegenauer (88)

Norway: Ane Fimreite; Ina Skaug, Maren Knudsen, Ingrid Sondenå, Anja Sønstevoid (Ida Aardalen 74); Maria Thorisdottir; Ada Hegerberg (Caroline Hansen 46), Cathrine Dekkerhus (Guro Reiten 70), Andrine Hegerberg, Kristine Hegland (captain); Melissa Bjånesøy.

Germany: Lisa Schmitz; Leonie Maier, Johanna Elsig, Luisa Wensing, Jennifer Cramer; Kathrin Hendrich (Anja Maike Hegenauer 64), Isabella Schmid; Eunice Beckmann (Ivana Rudelic 63), Ramona Petzelberger (captain), Carolin Simon (Marie Pyko 58); Lena Lotzen.

Attendance: 1,300 at Stadio Romeo Galli, Imola; KO 20.30

Yellow cards: None

Referee: Sandra Braz Bastos (Portugal) / Massey; Kyriakou / Larsson

TOP SCORERS

Goals	Player	Country
7	Melissa BJÅNESØY	Norway
5	Lena LOTZEN	Germany
3	Katia COPPOLA	Italy
	Isabella SCHMID	Germany
2	Maria-Laura AGA	Belgium
	Lisa ALBORGHETTI	Italy
	Eunice BECKMANN	Germany
	Anna CHOLOVYAGA	Russia
	Anja Maike HEGENAUER	Germany
	Kristine HEGLAND	Norway
	Ramona PETZELBERGER	Germany
	Ivana RUDELIC	Germany

FAIR PLAY RANKING

Pos	Team	Score	Matches played
1	Germany	8.992	5
2	Norway	8.942	5
3	Netherlands	8.869	3
4	Switzerland	8.714	4
5	Belgium	8.571	3
5	Spain	8.571	3
7	Russia	8.238	3
8	Italy	8.196	4

MATCH OFFICIALS

Name	Country	Date of Birth	FIFA
Referees			
Lilach ASULIN	Israel	13.01.1972	2008
Sandra BRAZ BASTOS	Portugal	01.03.1978	2004
Pernilla LARSSON	Sweden	18.09.1976	2010
Lina LEHTOVAARA	Finland	23.06.1981	2009
Morag PIRIE	Scotland	27.06.1975	2009
Séverine ZINCK	France	19.03.1979	2009
Assistant Referees			
Secim DEMIREL	Turkey	09.05.1976	2004
Ourania FOSKOLOU	Greece	16.04.1979	2009
Andrea HIMA	Hungary	10.06.1979	2008
Angela KYRIAKOU	Cyprus	08.11.1977	2008
Sian MASSEY	England	05.10.1985	2009
Vera ONICA	Moldova	03.10.1986	2010
Petra SEVER	Slovenia	06.10.1977	2005
Cindy ZEFERINO DE OLIVEIRA	Austria	11.05.1977	2004
Fourth Officials			
Giovanna FARINELLI	Italy	08.08.1980	2009
Carina VITULANO	Italy	22.07.1975	2005



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