

# Technical Report



WOMEN'S  
**UNDER19™**  
CHAMPIONSHIP  
Turkey 2012



**European Women's Under-19 Championship  
Final Round 2012 – Turkey**

# INTRODUCTION

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The final tournament of the 2011/12 competition featured only one of the eight finalists who had contested the Under-19 title in Italy a year earlier – Angel Vilda’s Spanish team. The defending champions, Germany, were absent from the final tournament for the first time in the competition’s 11-year history. The dates for the final tournament were moved from the previous end-of-May to early-June slot: the 2012 event was staged from 2 to 14 July, with the opening matches taking place the day after the EURO 2012 final in Kyiv.

The tournament was played at three venues near the southern coastal city of Antalya in Turkey, where the 2008 men’s Under-17 final tournament also took place. Facilities at the Mardan (two stadiums), Titanic and World of Wonders sports complexes were magnificent, but the distance from the city had an impact on attendance figures. The cumulative total was 3,624 spectators at an average of 241 per match, compared with 12,660 and 844 in the previous year. Eurosport broadcast one semi-final and the final to a pan-European audience. Kick-off times of the 15 matches were in the evening to minimise the effects of the high temperatures and humidity, with the coaches unanimously commenting that the conditions did not represent a problem.

Portugal, Romania and Serbia made their first-ever appearances in the Under-19 final tournament, along with the Turkish hosts. As Turkey’s coach, Taygun Erdem, commented: “The objective is to promote women’s football in Turkey. Women’s football is not a very popular sport here but, by hosting this tournament, we will try to show the opportunities of women’s football. Being successful in this tournament will help us a lot in terms of breaking down barriers.”

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# ROUTE TO THE FINAL



The 2012 final tournament was coloured by expectations. With half of the participants making their debuts and others returning after lengthy absences, objectives varied. Romania's head coach, Mirel Albon, and his Serbian counterpart, Milan Rastavac, agreed that their target was "to convince the players that they were able to compete at this level". Portugal's José Paisana and the host team's coach, Taygun Erdem, both stated that their aim was "to promote women's football". Almost all attacked the tournament with the idea of reaching the semi-finals.

The tournament kicked off with a repeat of the 2009 final, with England taking on Sweden in an encounter between two teams with winning ambitions. Sweden gained revenge for the 2009 defeat thanks to a 31st-minute penalty which proved to be the only goal of the game. England's coach, Maureen "Mo" Marley, commented: "We found it tough to break them down and maybe lost a bit of belief." This was compounded on the second matchday when a Spanish side that had beaten Serbia 3-0 sprang a surprise by adding a 4-0 win over England. "People will look at the score and think it was one-sided," said Marley. "But there were positives we could take from the game." The big news in Group B was therefore the elimination of the English team, who rounded off their campaign with a goalless draw against Serbia – which gave both teams their only point. Serbia had the consolation of being the only team to score against the rampant Swedes – a goal which brought them back to 3-1 in a 5-1 defeat. Sweden and Spain then rotated their players and, in a highly competitive match, fought out a 0-0 draw on the final matchday in Group B which produced no goals.

The lack of goals emerged as one of the salient features of Group A, where the six fixtures yielded only six in total. On the opening day, the hosts and the Portuguese debutants offered entertainment but no goals. The other match also seemed poised to end goalless, until Denmark's Anna Fisker beat Romania with a goal timed at 90+2. Fisker produced a repeat performance in the second match against Turkey, which was decided by her solitary 50th-minute goal. The Danes then completed a hat-trick of 1-0 wins thanks to a late penalty against Portugal which guaranteed top place in the group and, curiously, gave second place to a Portuguese side which had scored only once. The last match was the only one in which both teams found the net, as an own goal from Andreea Corduneanu left Romania providing both goals in the 1-1 draw.

The semi-finals – an Iberian and a Scandinavian derby – were both closely fought. Portugal, who had conceded only one goal in the tournament, provided stout opposition for Angel Vilda's Spanish side. José Paisana's game plan was to keep things tight defensively and look for chances once fatigue became a factor. Portugal, although dominated for much of the game, did carve out some late chances but were defeated by a solitary goal scored by Spanish striker Raquel Pinel three minutes from the end. In the other match, Denmark showed mental resilience, fighting back after two strikes from irrepressible striker Elin Rubensson had put Sweden in a seemingly comfortable position within half an hour. But, in an end-to-end match, Karoline Smidt Nielsen pounced on a rebound to reduce the deficit and prompt a degree of Swedish nail biting. However, the issue was settled in the last minute, when Stine Ballisager turned a cross into her own net. The 3-1 win meant that, in the final, Calle Barrling's Sweden would meet Spain for the second time in seven days.

Turkey's No11, Elif Deniz, tries to drag the ball away from a challenge by Danish midfielder Mie Jans during the Group A match



# THE FINAL

## Malin's magical moment at Mardan



**Sweden's goalscorer Malin Diaz holds off a challenge by Spanish playmaker Amanda Sampedro during the final**

Before the ball started rolling, Spanish coach Angel Vilda had predicted: "I expect it to be a fiercely contested final. Both teams will try to impose their style of play. We will counteract their physical prowess by trying to shut down their main playmakers. But what we definitely can't afford to do is compete with them physically because we will come off second best." The final in Antalya faithfully followed the script he had penned.

In terms of temperature, there was little need for the players to warm up on the pitch at the Mardan 1 stadium. Even at nine o'clock in the evening, the thermometer marked 34°C and skies were clear. As the teams ran out to prepare muscles for a fierce contest,

it was obvious that the atmosphere was cooler than the Turkish air. An attendance below one-tenth of the stadium's capacity was hardly in line with the quality of a fascinating final between teams of contrasting styles.

Swedish coach Calle Barrling had described the group-stage encounter between the two teams as "a match between heavyweight boxers" and, once French referee Stéphanie Frappart had signalled the start of play, the sparring resumed. Both teams kept their guards high. Just over ten minutes had elapsed before Sweden's livewire top scorer Elin Rubensson found enough space to make an off-target attempt on the Spanish goal from long range. The fast and skilful Rubensson had emerged as one of the tournament's influential figures. Both she and attacking partner Pauline Hammarlund were prepared to work hard to make themselves available to receive deliveries

into the front third, while the skilful Malin Diaz, living up to her South American parentage, made darting runs from her starting position on the right of the midfield. Calle Barrling had set up a compact defensive block comprising two flat lines of four, working closely together. All eight were physically strong and virtually unassailable by aerial routes. Sweden's defending was disciplined and determined, starting with fierce pressure on any ball carrier who showed up in their half of the pitch. In previous games, the Spanish team had effectively blended combination play with direct deliveries to their front players. But, as the drama unfolded, it became clear that the Spaniards were struggling to reach their strikers; that Sweden comfortably repelled long, high passes; and that space between the compact Swedish lines was going to be hard to find or create.

Angel Vilda, although maintaining a 4-3-3 structure, had modified his lineup with a view to allowing a screening midfielder to pick up the deeper lying of the two Swedish strikers, with one of the central defenders subjecting the other to tight surveillance. The Swedes' counterattacking reputation had gone before them. Although the transition from defence to attack was as fast as the click of a light switch, the Swedish team struggled to supply ammunition to their heavy attacking artillery. Spain, although never allowed to settle on the ball in their opponents' half, dominated in terms of possession and scoring chances. Defender Ivana Andrés had a header cleared off the line, while striker Raquel Pinel twice went close.

Eleven minutes before the interval, Therese Boström went to ground after an awkward fall and her evident signs of pain prompted Barrling to replace her with Jonna Andersson. The change seemed to enliven Sweden's attacking play with, in the space of a couple of minutes, Jennie Nordin heading wide from a corner swung in by Malin Diaz, and Hammarlund then stabbing a chance wide. But, by the time the whistle was blown for the end of the first half, Jessica Höglander in the Swedish goal had been required to make four saves, but Spanish keeper Dolores "Lola" Gallardo none.

After the break, the Spanish team varied its tactical strategy. Angel Vilda had signalled the difficulties inherent in trying to build effective passing moves through the core of the Swedish defensive lines and, increasingly, attempted to find a way round the block rather than through it. Whereas Spain's play had shown a reluctance to throw players forward for fear of the Swedish breaks, the full-backs started to combine with greater frequency with Gema Gili and Alexia Putellas on the wings and tried to stretch the Swedish defence. In the central areas, Amanda Sampedro found it much more problematic to perform her habitual role as chief creator and playmaker. Although Spanish possession play was often built on horizontal or backward passing which allowed the Swedish defensive block to assemble, they started to test Höglander in the Swedish goal. Raquel Pinel turned neatly to get in a shot; Alexia Putellas struck a free-kick against the crossbar; and a header by Virginia Torrecilla obliged Höglander to acrobatically turn the ball past the post. Despite the heat and humidity, the Swedish players were still snapping into tackles and working hard to disrupt the slick Spanish passing moves as soon as they arrived in key areas. But the current was evidently flowing in Spain's favour and the degree

of frustration in the Swedish attack could be measured by the free-kicks conceded by Rubensson in her attempts to regain the ball after her supplies had been intercepted.

On the touchline, Calle Barrling anxiously directed Swedish defensive play; Angel Vilda, backed by his assistant and son Jorge, urged his players forward and, in the last ten minutes of normal time, made his three substitutions – removing his front three and sending on the fresh legs of Nelly Maestro, Ana Troyano and Marina García to replace them. Immediately after the third change, the French referee signalled the end of normal time and the players headed for welcome refreshment on the touchline.

There were few signs of fatigue as extra time got under way. The Spanish team continued to dictate the tempo of the game, to penetrate with neat combinations on the flanks, and continued to search for ways of penetrating the Swedish defensive armour. Even when crossing opportunities arose, the Swedish defence was able to deal with them. Gallardo was not required to make a save during the first period of extra time, but perhaps the lack of activity ultimately took its toll. In the 108th minute, a long

pass finally picked out Rubensson on the left corner of the Spanish box. The Swedish striker turned past Ivana Andrés and struck a low ball across the goal area. Lola Gallardo went down to gather the ball, but it slipped out of her hands directly into the path of Malin Diaz, who was following in at top speed. The Swedish striker hammered the ball into the roof of the net and raced away to her right to celebrate with the vigour of someone who knew that the goal had won a title. Gallardo remained grounded, seemingly on the verge of tears, with her head buried between her gloves.

Twelve minutes remained. The Spaniards, faithful to their passing game, pressed for an equaliser with all the energy they could muster. But the Swedish team, motivated even further by the scent of victory, continued to defend stoutly and, when shooting chances emerged from the melee, Höglander dealt competently with everything that was aimed at her goal. Calle Barrling's team had the last word – a counterattack which culminated in Rubensson shooting wide. The final whistle was the signal for the extenuated Spanish players to sink to the ground and weep disconsolately. The Swedish squad found enough energy to celebrate in style and, with the theme from Rocky providing the background for their climb into the stand, to collect gold medals and raise the trophy amid a shower of yellow and blue confetti.

Malin's magical moment had given Sweden the Under-19 title for the first time.



**The tournament's top scorer, Swedish striker Elin Rubensson, uses her pace to take her clear of frustrated Spanish midfielder Gema Gili**

# TECHNICAL TOPICS

In Turkey, goalscoring emerged once again as one of the salient features of the final tournament. The statistics provide eloquent evidence to justify further discussion of an issue which has become relevant at youth development levels. The 2011 finals in Italy produced 54 goals at an average of 3.6 per match. In 2012, the number of goals failed to reach half that figure. The 15 matches played in Turkey yielded 26 goals at 1.7 per game. This represented a 52% drop and the lowest scoring rate ever recorded in the competition. The chart on this page demonstrates that this is not a question of a marginal drop, but a striking decrease in football's end product. In Antalya, 18 of the tournament's 26 goals were scored by the two finalists, Spain and Sweden, with the latter contributing 38% of the tournament total. Four of the other eight were scored by Denmark, meaning that the remaining five competing teams totalled four goals between them. In the 2011 final tournament, 12 players scored two goals or more. In 2012, only four players found the net more than once, with Swedish striker Elin Rubensson supplying almost 20% of the goals scored during the tournament.

## DEFENCE v ATTACK

The low goalscoring tally can be interpreted in various ways. The most evident – or, for more sceptical observers, convenient – slant is to attribute the lack of goals to improvements in defensive mechanisms. All of the teams in Turkey were well-organised and disciplined in defence. The overall trend was towards compact defending deep in the teams' own half, which gave little room for attacking teams to get in behind the back line. UEFA's observers also remarked that individual



**English attacker Nikita Parris stretches a leg to reach the ball before Swedish midfielder Therese Boström during the eventual champions' 1-0 win on the opening matchday**

defending techniques have steadily improved in recent years. Tackling skills have been polished and attackers in general found it difficult to distort defensive structures via one-on-one situations. To attribute the lack of goals to defensive efficiency is legitimate. But the other side of the coin is obviously to put question marks against attacking and creative aspects of the game at this level, and the number of players prepared to take on opponents in one-on-ones.

## GOALSCORING YEAR BY YEAR

Year	Group	Knockout	Total	Average
2003	45	8	53	3.53
2004	44	12	56	3.73
2005	48	12	60	3.75
2006	31	8	39	2.60
2007	34	11	45	3.00
2008	34	7	41	2.73
2009	38	12	50	3.33
2010	52	5	57	3.80
2011	36	18	54	3.60
2012	20	6	26	1.73

## TEAM SHAPES

This is not unrelated to the issue of attack v defence. In Antalya, 4-3-3 and variations on the theme provided the preferred structure. Four teams had this formation as their default setting (Denmark, Romania, Serbia and England). Portugal, Spain and Turkey opted for a 4-2-3-1 system, while the champions, Sweden, were alone in preferring a classic 4-4-2. There were variations within these categories. Romania offered a good example of how a 4-3-3 structure was rapidly transformed into a 4-5-1 when possession was lost, with wingers Francesca Dicu and Mara Bâtea quick to provide defensive reinforcement. The same applied to Serbia's wide midfielders, with the two Jelenas (Čanković and Čubrilo) dropping into a 4-1-4-1 defensive block.

Five of the eight finalists deployed two screening midfielders – which is a significant ingredient to inject into discussion about the lack of goals. Romania, Serbia and Denmark operated with a single screening midfielder, although, in the latter's formation, Julie Trustrup was ready to lend a hand to Caroline

Rask in screening duties while the two full-backs were making adventurous sorties on both flanks. All eight finalists played with a flat back four, with the result that solid defensive blocks were generally built on six players, with the opposition's access routes through the centre vigilantly patrolled.

#### HOW THE GOALS WERE SCORED

Among the 22 goals scored in open play, three were own goals derived from crosses into the box. Of the other 19, almost one-third (31%) stemmed from the tournament's most common goalscoring manoeuvre – a diagonal pass into the box. Four of the tournament's goals were headers and 80% of the overall total were scored from inside the penalty area. Set plays accounted for only four goals, two of them penalties. At the 2011 final tournament, set plays accounted for 18% of the goals. In 2012, Sweden were the only team to score from a free-kick (Elin Rubensson's strike which put them 2–0 ahead in the semi-final against Denmark), while the Spaniards were alone in scoring from a corner. (Half the set-play goals in 2011 stemmed from corner kicks.) In their opening game against Serbia, Amanda Sampedro received a short corner from the right and crossed for defender Ivana Andrés to head in at the far post. It was the only success from the 131 corners taken during the final tournament.

UEFA's observers commented: "The scarcity of goals from set pieces could be put down to very well-prepared and organised defensive work and goalkeepers who, in general, performed well against set plays. Romania had the greatest variety in terms of rehearsed corners and free-kicks, while the other teams generally remained faithful to a single set-up for all their set plays."

It was significant that none of the goals stemmed from a through pass in the central area or a pass over the defence.

#### GOALSCORING TABLE

Action	Goals
<b>Set plays</b>	
Corner	1
Direct free-kick	1
Indirect free-kick	–
Throw-in	–
Penalty	2
<b>Open play</b>	
Crosses	2
Combinations (minimum three-pass move)	3
Diagonal pass into box	6
Through pass or pass over defence	–
Long-range shots	2
Rebounds (defender, goalkeeper or woodwork)	2
Individual action or solo run	2
Defensive error (defender, goalkeeper or own goal)	5

#### TRANSITION SPEED

UEFA's technical observers noted that the two finalists, Spain and Sweden, were the teams who were best equipped to make swift defence-to-attack transitions – which does not mean that they always did it. Angel Vilda's silver medallists successfully blended direct passing with a much more patient, possession-oriented approach. The Swedish team, renowned for the pace

and efficiency of their counterattacking, demonstrated that technique-based combination play was also part of their armoury. "Spain had the ball most of the time," commented midfielder Malin Diaz, scorer of the goal that won the final, "but we managed to deal with them. At half-time, the coach told us to slow down a little bit and keep the ball a lot, and to go forward."

Most of the teams in Turkey opted for a patient build-up once the ball was won. This was a rational approach bearing in mind the trend towards deep defending which left teams with few players available to receive passes in advanced positions. Teams also realised that hitting a long ball towards the lone striker was an invitation for the ball to come back within a few seconds. The trend was towards a cautious build-up from the back, based on sideways or backward passing, with the goalkeeper frequently involved – often to retain possession until her team-mates had moved into more advanced positions. This type of build-up evidently allowed defensive blocks to be set up and the surprise factor was minimised.



# TECHNICAL TOPICS

## STRIKING FACTS

On the second matchday in Group B, Sweden had six on-target goal attempts and defeated Serbia 5-1. Admittedly a Serbian own goal added to their statistical efficiency, but the fact that none of their goal attempts was off-target was remarkable. It was a striking fact that the champions had fewer on-target shots per game than Spain, Denmark, Romania, Turkey and Serbia. But Calle Barrling's side was by far the highest scoring team in the tournament. As England coach Mo Marley commented after her team's game against the Swedes: "At this level you simply have to be clinical. You normally get one or two good chances, rather than a handful so, to be the best, you have got to have a cutting edge. You've got to take your opportunities." In three games, her team had nine on-target goal attempts and 22 which went astray.

Portugal coach José Paisana agreed: "We need to be more clinical in the final third." Turkish coach Taygun Erdem commented after the 1-0 defeat by Denmark that eliminated his team: "We started to take risks in the last half-hour and played with four forwards. If our players had converted chances, things would have been different." The final tournament produced 310 goal attempts and 26 goals – meaning that fractionally under 12 opportunities were required for each goal scored.

Team	On target	Average per game	Off target
Spain	36	7.20	38
Romania	17	5.67	15
Denmark	22	5.50	23
Turkey	16	5.33	22
Serbia	15	5.00	8
Sweden	21	4.20	15
Portugal	14	3.50	17
England	9	3.00	22



Portugal's Jéssica Silva attempts to prevent Romanian defender Adina Giurgiu from clearing the ball

The questions to arise are whether the trend towards a lone striker is leading towards a shortage of players with a killer instinct in front of goal, and whether more can be done on the training ground at youth development levels to nurture and promote goalscoring abilities.

## GOALSCORING PATTERNS

The fact that 62% of the goals were scored after the half-time interval tallies with the 2011 final tournament, when 61% of the goals hit the net after the break. The low total makes it risky to look for trends in scoring patterns, but the fact that the peak came between the 61st and 75th minutes suggests that fitness levels were high enough to prevent a glut of goals during the closing phases when fatigue might have become a factor.

Minutes	Goals	%
1-15	2	8
16-30	3	12
31-45	5	19
45+	0	0
46-60	2	8
61-75	7	27
76-90	4	15
90+	2	8
Extra time	1	4

Decimal points account for the "extra" 1%

## A GLOVE AFFAIR

The technical report on the 2011 final tournament commented: "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 2012, UEFA's observers felt that standards had improved. This feeling is backed up by the fact that only two goals stemmed from long-range shooting – one of the bête noire topics at this level, where goalkeepers' lack of physical stature can often translate into vulnerability. As Calle Barrling remarked prior to the final tournament: "We have more experienced goalkeepers in this group than we have had at some previous tournaments and that is obviously very positive for the team as a whole." The fact that goalkeeping coaches have been added to the coaching staff in many Under-19 squads is arguably beginning to produce dividends.

## PREPARATION

Preparations for the final tournament in Antalya were in line with the steadily rising standards at this level. The Danish squad, for instance, trained in heavy clothing and/or rain jackets to prepare for the hot, humid conditions they expected to encounter at the final tournament. The Danes were among those whose preparations included matches against theoretically stronger

opposition: the senior national team and a premier league club. Portugal measured their abilities against, as José Paisana put it, "a very strong men's Under-17 team". Spain also included a match against male opposition in their preparation programme. Romanian coach Mirel Albon included nine of his Under-19 side in a lineup for a friendly against North Korea. England, drafting new players into the squad after failing to qualify for the 2011 finals, held regular training camps throughout the season and, like the Turkish team, took part in tournaments during the run-up to Antalya. The hosts' preparations were obviously coloured by the lack of competitive games during the qualifying phase – and Taygun Erdem compensated for this by taking the squad to a 12-day tournament in Russia and then a 10-day event staged at the venues used for the final tournament. His squad assembled in Antalya nine days before kick-off.

This provided a contrast with the Swedish programme. "We arrived four days before the tournament started," Calle Barrling commented, "and this was perfect in terms of giving us time to work on attacking, defending, counterattacking and set pieces".

The Swedish squad was helped, during a five-day training camp in May, by what Calle called "a mental coach". The presence of a sports psychologist provided another indication that standards at youth development levels are becoming steadily more professional. Coaching staff were generally supplemented by scouts, media officers and, in three cases, a chef. José Paisana and Milan Rastavac, coaches of Portugal and Serbia respectively, underlined the importance of DVD analysis in their preparations for the tournament, while Calle Barrling also commented: "The use of video material as a tool to learn how to win matches has become very important. We had a former professional player as a video analyst and he was an important member of our team behind the team. To be honest, we prefer to offer players images rather than words."

## INDIVIDUAL DEVELOPMENT

Most of the coaches in Antalya reported that players were given individual preparation programmes – although Spanish coach Angel Vilda pointed out that, in his country, this was mainly down to the clubs. Mirel Albon's preparations had been helped by the fact that most of his squad came from two Romanian clubs, who were willing to cooperate with the implementation of individual programmes "aimed at preparing them for a final tournament where we knew the demands would be high". Danish coach Søren Randa-Boldt commented that his players were given individual programmes to prepare them for their specific role within the team. English coach Mo Marley mixed standard and individual programmes. Milan Rastavac had given his players a six-week preparation schedule. Calle Barrling had supplied individual programmes to five of

his squad. And Taygun Erdem mentioned that individual feedback was given to the players after each training camp, but that individual schedules were often hampered by a lack of suitable facilities.

"It is obvious that the gaps between European countries are closing," UEFA's technical observers commented. "The four new teams did very well – especially the young and talented Portuguese side which reached the semi-final. From our conversations with the coaches in Antalya, it's evident that more countries have long-term development plans and that girls' football is benefiting from the growing number of academies and training centres, meaning that players are getting more training hours – and that seems to translate into higher quality."



# TALKING POINTS



**England forward Danielle Carter tries to touch the ball away from a determined challenge by Sweden's Alice Nilsson**

## ARE GOALS THE GOAL?

The low number of goals at the 2012 final tournament has been recorded on the preceding pages as a technical topic. Interpretations of the statistics, however, also give rise to talking points.

The arguments and counter-arguments start from the fact that four teams were making their debuts in the final tournament of the Under-19 competition. One of the debutants' coaches, Romania's Mirel Albon, stated: "The goal for me and the team was to be able to play at this level without losing by big scores. So my priorities on the training ground were to work on defending, covering, movement and counterattacking." Turkish coach Taygun Erdem, after his team's opening 0-0 draw with Portugal, said: "It was a very

entertaining game. We had done our homework on Portugal. We analysed them a lot and tried to close them down. We played very well and what pleased me most was that we managed to stop their key players." After the semi-final defeat by Spain, Portugal's coach José Paisana commented "We felt that if we kept it tight, chances would come when the players got tired." Calle Barrling, after Sweden had registered a goalless draw in their group game against Spain, said: "Neither of the sides wanted to take many risks, probably because they respect us and we respect them."

On the other hand, José Paisana maintained: "We always want to play beautiful football. It's our philosophy." In Antalya, he also said that for his squad, "the most important goal for us is to gain experience and to promote women's football."

The talking points hinge on a number of contrasts. There can be little discussion, for example, that the presence of four new teams in the final tournament was positive in terms

of offering top-level international experience to a wider audience. How understandable is it that debutants go into the tournament determined not to lose by a big score? Is it positive that priorities should be given to defensive proficiency? Is this the best way forward in terms of player development?

José Paisana was by no means alone in his desire to use the tournament to promote women's football. Turkish coach Taygun Erdem had "few players to choose from"; Romania's Mirel Albon had recruited in the USA, Italy and Moldova in view of the fact that fewer than 500 players of all ages are playing league football. Milan Rastavac pointed out that Serbia had only 1,000 registered players. But is such a low-scoring tournament with three goalless draws and seven 1-0 scorelines the best way of promoting women's football?

At youth development levels, should there be greater emphasis on the creative, attacking aspects of the game? What is the most appropriate balance at this level between entertaining the public and a result-orientated philosophy?

## GOOD ENOUGH = OLD ENOUGH?

UEFA's youth development competitions – male and female – reveal an interesting diversity of criteria. Some national associations preferred to select their squads on a year-by-year basis. In other words, all the players in Antalya would have been born in 1993. Others adopted a flexible approach, preferring to include younger players in the squad to provide a degree of continuity from one year's competition to the next and to give younger players a taste of life at a relatively long-duration, top-level tournament.

In Antalya, the trend away from the single-year philosophy was striking – as this table showing years of birth illustrates:

Team	1993	1994	1995	1996
Denmark	2	14	2	
England	6	8	4	
Portugal	5	8	2	3
Romania	3	7	4	4
Serbia	5	9	4	
Spain	5	13		
Sweden	11	5	2	
Turkey	10	4	3	1

In other words, 68 of the 144 players (47%) were born in 1994 as opposed to 47 (33%) born at the top of the age bracket. Turkey's Ebru Topçu played in all three games, including the full 90 minutes of the final match against Romania, at the age of 15. Portugal's Andreia Norton, 12 days her senior, played three minutes – also against Romania. Of the three members of the "class of '96" in the Portuguese squad, two (Vanessa Malho and Fátima Pinto) were regular starters. The average age across the eight squads was a low one: 18.06 compared with 18.33 in Italy in 2011. The Romanian squad was the youngest at the final tournament, with an average age of 17.5, followed by Portugal with 17.83.

No fewer than 29 (one fifth of the total "workforce" in Antalya) could have played in the Under-17s. Indeed, goalkeeper Maria Christensen and midfielder Anna Fisker had, a week before travelling to Turkey, played in the Under-17 final tournament for Denmark, the only country to have qualified for the final tournament at both age levels.

On the other hand, the two finalists were the two most "mature" teams in Antalya, the Swedish champions being the oldest with an average age of 18.5. In the final, eight of Sweden's starters were of the "class of '93". Obviously, for the younger players, the experience in Turkey might pay dividends in the next two or even three years. But what is the most appropriate policy regarding the ages of players in Under-19 squads?

#### ONWARDS AND UPWARDS?

The issue is related to the question of continuity raised above. Player development is not an exact science and the path from Under-17 to Under-19 levels is sometimes stony – in the male and

female teams. In the men's game, this tends to be a sporting question based on deceleration or even injury. In the women's game, other factors step in. In previous years, the Under-19 finals were marked by multiple absences related to the May/June dates, which clashed with important examinations. The switch to July removed this obstacle. But, in Antalya, one of the coaches pointed out that two key members of the Under-17s (who had enough talent to have been selected for the World Cup squad although two years below the age limit) had not been selected at Under-19 level as a result of a "lack of ambition".

One of the other coaches in Antalya also remarked that four members of the squad had dropped out because they were unable to find sufficient commitment to the cause or were reluctant to "suffer" the rigours of top-level training coupled with sometimes lengthy spells away from home and/or work.

It is obvious that the women's game

cannot offer the same financial incentives or career paths as those offered to male Under-19s. But what more can be done to keep top talents interested and enthusiastic about the game?

#### START AS YOU MEAN TO GO ON?

Sometimes, tiny details can catch the eye and create an impression disproportionate to their actual importance, like a small food stain on an otherwise immaculately white blouse. One such detail struck UEFA's observers in Turkey, and it was about "body language" right at the beginning of the game – when impressions are easily formed. "One note," they remarked, "was that, at kick-off, almost all the teams immediately hit the ball forward. The result was that the attacking team immediately lost the ball and gave the impression that they just wanted to get rid of it. Why do teams do this?

Are they afraid to lose the ball in their own half rather than giving it to the opposition at the other end? Why do something that gives the impression that you're not comfortable with the ball?"



**Turkish striker Sevgi Çınar and Portuguese defender Fátima Pinto look concerned as they challenge for the ball during the goalless draw on the opening matchday**

# THE WINNING COACH



**Calle Barrling briefs his players during the team huddle prior to the final against Spain**

After the victory in Antalya, Calle Barrling harked back to his previous experience in the Under-19 final in Belarus in 2009. His team was defeated 2-0 by Mo Marley's England team on that occasion, but the manner of defeat prompted him to review his development objectives. England's composed passing game, based on neat triangular combinations, had proved to be more than a match for Sweden's traditions of hard work and counterattacking. "When we lost that final in 2009," he said, "I decided to select more technically gifted players and to teach them to defend. I think the policy became visible in this tournament. We now have a blend of technique and defence."

His team presented its credentials during the qualifying phase. In six games, they scored 18 goals and conceded just one – a penalty converted by Poland. The supreme test, however, was the match against Germany, when the Swedish team again kept a clean sheet – and scored once. Confidence was further boosted by the opening match in Turkey against England. Ghosts were exorcised with another clean sheet and another solitary goal. "They started well but lost their way in the second half and we deserved to win because we created more chances." After the 5-1 win against Serbia, he commented: "We didn't stop running for 90 minutes, our counter-

attacking was effective, and we held our shape really well." Then came the first of the two confrontations with Spain in the space of eight days. He described it as "like a match between two heavyweight boxers who were sparring with each other," a simile which he might equally have

applied to the final, even though the "sparring" might have evolved into heavy punching.

He admitted that his side, after producing its "best first half of a tournament", had struggled to cope with Denmark's adventurous and direct attacking during the second half of the semi-final. "But we were not afraid of Spain," he maintained. "They were skilful but we also had players with good technique and, when we attacked, we didn't go long. We kept possession because we needed to rest a bit and, tactically, we were very good. Our midfielders could produce some nice combinations and our front runners were always looking for something."

Sweden won the title after conceding only two goals in their five games. "It was no coincidence that we conceded so few goals," continued Calle. "As a team we're good at defending and the players know their specific tasks. It's a group of players who are also skilful when it comes to playing a passing game – and that means we have more ways of attacking than the traditional Swedish counterattacking."

Calle acknowledges that the country's first Under-19 title augurs well for the future of Swedish football. "The more experience you have, the more likely you are to succeed," he comments. "And 15 of my squad were already gaining experience in the Swedish league – most of them as regular starters. We've also got goalkeepers who are more experienced than some of those we have had in the past, which adds value to our defensive work."



Calle was understandably jubilant when the referee's whistle signalled the end of extra time in Antalya. But long after the champagne bubbles have dispersed, his longer-lasting reward will be the satisfaction derived from the hard thinking and hard work he has done since that defeat in Belarus in 2009, which laid the foundations for the future.

**Despite being drenched by his players and with his glasses precariously balanced, Calle Barrling is a happy man with a gold medal around his neck**

# THE TECHNICAL TEAM



At the final tournament in Turkey, UEFA's technical observers were two highly experienced and respected current and former national team coaches: Hesterine de Reus of the Netherlands and Anna Signeul of Sweden.

Hesterine de Reus is a leading specialist in women's football. Capped 43 times by the Netherlands, she was deeply involved in the development of the women's game in her native country and, after winning three league titles as head coach of Saestum, worked in conjunction with the head coach of the senior team, Vera Pauw, in developing women's teams in all age groups. Hesterine took over the Under-17 team in June 2004 and, most recently, took the Dutch Under-19 team to the final tournament in the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in 2010, before heading for Jordan to work as national

team coach and development coordinator. A few days after the final in Antalya, Hesterine started her new job as the head coach at PSV Eindhoven.

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. She 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.



**Hesterine de Reus holds the pen as she compares notes with her technical team-mate Anna Signeul**

## TECHNICAL TEAM SELECTION

No	Name	Country
<b>Goalkeepers</b>		
1	Jessica HÖGLANDER	Sweden
1	Bárbara SANTOS	Portugal
<b>Defenders</b>		
4	Ivana ANDRÉS	Spain
6	Alex GREENWOOD	England
3	Amanda ILESTEDT	Sweden
4	Jennie NORDIN	Sweden
5	Andrea PEREIRA	Spain
4	Vanessa RODRIGUES	Portugal
<b>Midfielders</b>		
7	Petra ANDERSSON	Sweden
6	Nagore CALDERÓN	Spain
10	Nevena DAMJANOVIC	Serbia
7	Gema GILI	Spain
8	Julie JENSEN	Denmark
17	Tatiana PINTO	Portugal
9	Caroline RASK	Denmark
14	Karoline SMIDT NIELSEN	Denmark
<b>Attackers</b>		
9	Alexandra LUNCA	Romania
8	Vanessa MALHO	Portugal
7	Nikita PARRIS	England
11	Alexia PUTELLAS	Spain
10	Elin RUBENSSON	Sweden
10	Amanda SAMPEDRO	Spain





# DENMARK



## COACH

Søren RANDA-BOLDT  
04/10/1971



We aimed to take control of every match – to combine possession and short passing with movement on the wings. But when the other team is so good it causes problems – and Sweden were better than us. But I was very proud of the girls, who did a great job and gained fantastic experience. We made progress and it gave us something to build on, because I will be able to field practically the same team next year.



No	Player	Born	Pos	ROM	TUR	POR	SWE	G	Club
1	Maria CHRISTENSEN	03/07/95	GK	90	90	90	90		Team Viborg
2	Mie JANS	06/02/94	DF	90	90	90	90		Brøndby IF
3	Stine BALLISAGER Pedersen	03/01/94	DF	90	90	90	90		Team Viborg
4	Luna GEWITZ	03/03/94	DF	90	90	90	90		IK Skovbakken
5	Nikoline LØVGREN Frandsen	03/11/94	DF		4	90	5		KoldingQ
6	Rikke ILKJÆR	01/04/94	DF	90	90		85		KoldingQ
7	Karoline LYKKEBO Nielsen	29/08/94	FW	60		90	65		KoldingQ
8	Julie TRISTRUP Jensen	06/04/94	MF	90	90	90	90		Brøndby IF
9	Caroline RASK	25/05/94	MF	90	90	90	90		Fortuna Hjørring
10	Pernille MADSEN	19/10/94	FW	83	60		25		Team Viborg
11	Camilla ANDERSEN	20/03/94	FW		30	87	90	1	Horsens SIK
12	Caroline FAHNØE	17/12/94	DF						Brøndby IF
13	Marie-Louise KNUDSEN	05/05/94	FW		11	12			Fortuna Hjørring
14	Karoline SMIDT Nielsen	12/05/94	MF	90	90	60	90	1	Odense BK
15	Christina BOVBJERG	18/09/93	FW	90	79	78	90	1	IK Skovbakken
16	Josefine ALBERTS Eriksen	21/12/94	GK						Brøndby IF
17	Carola SCHNEIDER	11/03/93	MF	7		3			KoldingQ
18	Anna FISKER	24/05/95	FW	30	86	30		1	Fortuna Hjørring

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

## Denmark v Romania



- 4-3-3 with single or twin midfield screen screening midfielder
- Patient build-ups from the back with 9 Rask the main distributor
- Occasional use of direct deliveries from right centre-back to main striker
- Overlapping full-backs with wingers dropping back to cover their advances
- Quick transition into defensive block with compact pressing in own half
- Disciplined, well-organised team with good technical ability
- Quality of approach work not always rewarded by scoring opportunities



# ENGLAND



## COACH

Maureen "Mo" Marley  
31/01/1967



No	Player	Born	Pos	SWE	ESP	SRB	G	Club
1	Mary EARPS	07/03/93	GK	90	90	90		Doncaster Rovers Belles LFC
2	Lara FAY	09/08/93	DF	84	90			Chelsea LFC
3	Jasmine MATTHEWS	24/03/93	DF	90		90		Bristol Academy WFC
4	Elizabeth INCE	17/08/94	MF	90	82			Blackburn Rovers LFC
5	Meaghan SARGEANT	16/03/94	DF	90	90	90		Lincoln City LFC
6	Alex GREENWOOD	07/09/93	DF	90	90	90		Everton LFC
7	Nikita PARRIS	10/03/94	FW	90	72	32		Everton LFC
8	Sherry McCUE	16/09/94	MF	90	90	76		Aston Villa LFC
9	Bethany MEAD	09/05/95	FW	69	90	58		Sunderland WFC
10	Danielle CARTER	18/05/93	FW	90	1	1		Arsenal Ladies FC
11	Bethany ENGLAND	03/06/94	FW	57	67	90		Doncaster Rovers Belles LFC
12	Jessica SIGSWORTH	13/10/94	FW	33	90	90		Doncaster Rovers Belles LFC
13	Megan WALSH	12/11/94	GK					Aston Villa LFC
14	Katazyna LIPKA	26/05/93	MF			90		Doncaster Rovers Belles LFC
15	Aoife MANNION	24/09/95	DF	6	90	90		Aston Villa LFC
16	Keira RAMSHAW	12/01/94	FW	21	23	90		Sunderland WFC
17	Paige WILLIAMS	10/03/95	DF		18			Everton LFC
18	Abbey-Leigh STRINGER	17/05/95	MF		8	14		Aston Villa LFC

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

## England v Spain



- 4-3-3 with 4 Ince and 8 McCue as screening midfielders
- Well-organised in defence and attack, hard-working in midfield
- Possession-based game with emphasis on building from the back
- Good use of wings with support from two adventurous full-backs
- Attacks well supported from midfield; scoring chances created; good aerial ability
- Strong defensive pressure from midfield, forcing opponents to make errors
- Young, promising team; quality of play not reflected by scoreboard



# PORTUGAL



## COACH

José PAISANA  
15/01/1961



We had big ambitions and a lot of commitment. We also tried to entertain and enjoy our football. I was proud of my players because they demonstrated their ability and quality. It was our first final tournament and we coped extremely well. We reached the semi-finals and lost to a team of great quality and experience. But the squad is young, it has a great future, and I hope that this first final tournament will help to develop women's football in Portugal.



No	Player	Born	Pos	TUR	ROM	DEN	ESP	G	Club
1	BÁRBARA SANTOS	06/01/94	GK	90	90	90	90		AD OS Xavelhas
2	MÓNICA MENDES	16/06/93	DF	90	90	90	90		DC United
3	MARIANE AMARO	17/09/93	MF	61	25	79	89		Paris Saint-Germain FC
4	FILIPA RODRIGUES	04/09/93	DF	90	90	90	90		Fundação Laura Santos
5	MATILDE FIDALGO	15/05/94	DF	90	90	90	90		CF Benfica
6	STEFANIE BARCELOS	29/10/95	MF				1		Oakville Soccer Club
7	MÉLISSA GOMES	27/04/94	FW	71	67	90	90		FCF Juvisy
8	VANESSA MALHO	12/04/96	FW	90	90	90	90		Vilverdense FC
9	JÉSSICA SILVA	11/12/94	FW	16	87	61	90		Clube de Albergaria
10	FÁTIMA PINTO	16/01/96	DF	90	90	45*	13		GD APEL
11	ANDREIA NORTON	15/08/96	MF		3				FC Cesarense
12	DANIELA PEREIRA	28/09/94	GK						CA Ouriense
13	RITA FONTEMANHA	13/11/93	MF	90	90	90	77		Boavista FC
14	Micaela Matos Micas	01/07/94	MF	74	65	29	55	1	Escola Futebol Clube
15	JOANA CARNEIRO	03/02/93	MF	29					Boavista FC
16	DIANA SILVA	04/06/95	FW	19	23	11	35		CA Ouriense
17	TATIANA PINTO	28/03/94	MF	90	90	90			Clube de Albergaria
18	Anaís de Oliveira NÁNÁ	30/08/94	DF		45+	90			CA Ouriense

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

## Portugal v Denmark



- 4-2-3-1 with disciplined high-pressure defending in 4-1-4-1 formation
- Well-balanced team with 13 Rita Fortemanha and 3 Mariane Amaro hard-working, ball-winning screening midfielders
- Good mix of short passing combinations, direct supply to lone striker 8 Vanessa Malho
- Overlapping full-backs 5 Matilde Fidalgo and 10 Fátima Pinto, well covered by centre-backs
- 2 Mónica Mendes the key to building attacking moves from the back
- Fast wingers with 7 Mélissa Gomes dangerous when cutting inside
- Physically strong; committed tackling; good level of ball control



# ROMANIA



## COACH

Mirel ALBON  
02/10/1967



I was worried that my girls would struggle against the level of football in the finals, but they showed that they could cope with it. They were a very young team and it didn't matter that they made mistakes. The important thing was to play good football and to be happy to participate. I hope we gain permanent lessons from our mistakes and endeavour to do better. The experience they gained will serve them very well in the future.



No	Player	Born	Pos	DEN	POR	TUR	G	Club
1	Andrea-Maria PĂRĂLUȚĂ	27/11/94	GK	90	90	90		FCM Târgu Mureș
2	Andreea CORDUNEANU	26/06/95	DF	90	90	89		CFF Olimpia Cluj
3	Marina-Roxana PRUNEAN	08/03/96	DF			1		CFF Olimpia Cluj
4	Anamaria GOREA	04/01/93	DF	90	90	90		FCM Târgu Mureș
5	Elena VASILE	10/05/93	DF	90	90	90		CSS Târgoviște
6	Adina GIURGIU	17/08/94	DF	90	90	90		CFF Olimpia Cluj
7	Francesca DICU	13/02/94	FW	70	36	82		CFC Genoa
8	Ştefania VĂTAFU	12/07/93	MF	90	90	90		CFF Olimpia Cluj
9	Alexandra LUNCA	22/08/95	FW	90	90	90		CFF Olimpia Cluj
10	Andreea VOICU	16/01/96	MF	90	90	90		CFF Olimpia Cluj
11	Mara BÂTEA	12/04/95	FW	90	90	90	1	CFF Olimpia Cluj
12	Anamaria-Iulia NICULESCU	06/02/96	GK					AFC Bucureşti
13	Andreea CEAUSU	22/11/94	DF					CS Navobi Iași
14	Andrea HERCZEG	13/09/94	MF	55	78	66		FCM Târgu Mureș
15	Georgeta SANDU	23/12/94	FW	20	12			FC Alice & Tunes Piteşti
16	Renata SZENKO	08/02/95	MF			8		CS Motorul Oradea
17	Marta DAVID	26/04/96	DF					FCM Târgu Mureș
18	Nicole MARTON	11/01/94	MF	35	54	24		West Virginia Stringers

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

## Romania v Turkey



- 4-3-3 with midfield triangle; defensive work in 4-5-1 formation
- Disciplined deep defending with wingers dropping back to their own box
- Intense midfield pressure led by 8 Vătăfu and 10 Voicu, also the creative leaders
- Emphasis on building from the back, playing through midfield
- 9 Lunca a key player as lone striker – fast, skilful and always a threat
- Holding midfielder 14 Herczeg influential with strong ball-winning
- Excellent collective qualities, fighting spirit, committed attitude



# SERBIA



## COACH

Milan RASTAVAC  
01/11/1973



We were evidently daunted by the atmosphere. The strength of the opposition we faced taught us valuable lessons, such as to be more compact in defence and to retain possession better. The main thing is that we improved match by match and played at a higher level. Only four of the players will not be eligible next year, so we can field the same core group. It was a huge experience and the only thing missing was the results. But this can be put down to our inexperience at international level.



No	Player	Born	Pos	ESP	SWE	ENG	G	Club
1	Nevena STOJAKOVIĆ	18/03/95	GK	90	76			ŽFK Mašinac PZP
2	Jasna DJORDJEVIĆ	24/05/93	DF	90	90	90		ŽFK Mašinac PZP
3	Tijana KRSTIĆ	01/04/95	DF	90	90	90		ŽFK NK Napredak
4	Aleksandra SAVANOVIĆ	30/08/94	MF	81	1	90		ŽFK NK Spartak
5	Ivana BOBIĆ	13/07/93	DF	90	90	90		ŽFK LASK Crvena zvezda
6	Miljana SMILJKOVIĆ	08/08/94	DF					ŽFK Mašinac PZP
7	Jelena ČANKOVIĆ	13/08/95	FW	90	90	90		ŽFK NK Spartak
8	Marija ILIĆ	03/06/93	MF	90	90	90	1	ŽFK NK Spartak
9	Andrijana PEŠIĆ	18/09/94	FW	23	77	33		ŽFK LASK Crvena zvezda
10	Nevena DAMJANOVIĆ	12/04/93	MF	75	73	88		ŽFK NK Spartak
11	Jelena ČUBRILO	09/01/94	FW	67	45+	57		ŽFK NK Spartak
12	Katarina VOJINOVIĆ	18/05/95	GK		14	90		ŽFK Lemind Lavice
13	Ivana DAMNJANOVIĆ	16/04/94	DF	90	90	79		ŽFK LASK Crvena zvezda
14	Ana POPOV	04/04/94	MF	9	17			ŽFK LASK Crvena zvezda
15	Ana LILIĆ	28/09/93	MF	15	45*			ŽFK Mašinac PZP
16	Andrijana TRIŠIĆ	02/09/94	MF			2		ŽFK NK Napredak
17	Mima STANKOVIĆ	26/06/94	FW			11		ŽFK Mašinac PZP
18	Jovana DAMNJANOVIĆ	24/11/94	FW	90	90	90		ŽFK LASK Crvena zvezda

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

## Serbia v England



- 4-3-3 adaptable to 4-1-4-1 with deep-lying back four
- Occasional high pressure, but generally from midfield
- Preference for short-passing build-up with good passing options
- Attacking philosophy with adventurous full-backs, especially 3 Krstić on left
- High level of technique; always looking for through pass
- Quality of approach play not always matched by quality of finishing
- Strong team ethic – compact, well-coordinated team play



# SPAIN



## COACH

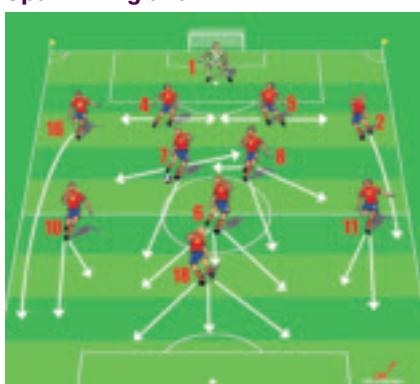
Angel VILDA  
15/09/1948



No	Player	Born	Pos	SRB	ENG	SWE	POR	SWE	G	Club
1	Dolores "LOLA" Gallardo	10/06/93	GK	90	86	90	90	120		Sporting de Huelva
2	IDAIRA Rodriguez	19/04/94	DF	90	90	90	90	120		SPC Llanos de Olivenza
3	PAULA López	04/07/94	DF	7		45+	1			Club Atlético de Madrid
4	IVANA Andrés Sanz	13/07/94	DF	90	90	45*	90	120	1	Valencia CFF
5	ANDREA Pereira	19/09/93	DF	90	90	90	90	120		RCD Espanyol de Barcelona
6	NAGORE Calderón	02/06/93	MF	89	90	17	89	120	1	Club Atlético de Madrid
7	GEMA Gili	21/05/94	MF	73	90	81	84			Valencia CFF
8	MARINA García	03/08/94	MF	90	82	73	67	31		PC Llanos de Olivenza
9	Raquel PINEL	30/08/94	FW	61	17	90	23	89	2	Valencia CFF
10	Amanda SAMPEDRO	26/06/93	MF	90	90	90	90	120	1	Club Atlético de Madrid
11	ALEXIA Putellas	04/02/94	FW	90	90		90	83	1	RCD Espanyol de Barcelona
12	NELLY Maestro	19/07/94	MF	8	65			37		CD Alcaine
13	ESTHER Sullastres	20/03/93	GK	4						UD L'Estartit
14	LAURA Ortiz	04/05/94	FW							Club Atlético de Madrid
15	NEREA Pérez	11/01/94	MF	1		90				Levante UD
16	ANA Troyano	22/03/94	MF	29	90	25	90	36		Club Atlético de Málaga
17	Raquel CARREÑO	01/02/94	MF	83		90	9	120		AD Torrejón CF
18	VIRGINIA Torrecilla	04/09/94	DF	90	90		90	120	2	Sporting At. Ciutat de Palma

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

## Spain v England



- 4-2-3-1 with wingers giving width
- Very good first touch providing basis for dominant positional, possession play
- Emphasis on high-tempo combination moves built from the back
- Quality diagonal passes and crosses; wingers 10 Sampedro and 11 Alexia very skilful
- Mature, experienced players; high level of technique, reading of game
- Organised defending led by 5 Andrea; good problem-solving
- Good use of through pass and well-executed set plays (variations in movement)



# SWEDEN



## COACH

Calle BARRLING  
28/07/1953



**Everything was perfect. We worked hard together, and tactically we were excellent. Everyone carried out their roles superbly. The final against Spain was very tight but we were very clever defensively. And we were brave even when they put us under a lot of pressure. We had to fight hard and I was worried about the heat, but we kept our minds fresh – and that was the key. We have learned to defend and we have good technique. It's a good mix – and it's the main reason why this team is so good.**



No	Player	Born	Pos	ENG	SRB	ESP	DEN	ESP	G	Club
1	Jessica HÖGLANDER	19/05/93	GK	90	90		90	120		Tyresö FF
2	Alice NILSSON	27/02/94	DF	90	60					Kristianstads DFF
3	Amanda ILESTEDT	17/01/93	MF	90	90	90	90	120		FC Malmö
4	Jennie NORDIN	15/05/93	DF	90	90	90	90	120		AIK Fotboll
5	Magdalena ERICSSON	08/09/93	DF	90	90	90	90	120		Djurgården DFF IF
6	Therese BOSTRÖM	09/06/93	MF	90		82	12	34*		AIK Fotboll
7	Petra ANDERSSON	23/10/93	MF	90	90	45+	90	120		AIK Fotboll
8	Malin DIAZ	03/01/94	FW	90	90	8	78	120	2	AIK Fotboll
9	Pauline HAMMARLUND	07/05/94	FW	81	90	19	90	104	1	Tyresö FF
10	Elin RUBENSSON	11/05/93	FW	89	70		90	120	5	FC Malmö
11	Jonna ANDERSSON	02/01/93	FW	1	90	90	90	86+		Linköpings FC
12	Lina RINGSHAMRE	29/01/93	GK			90	90			Sundsvalls DFF
13	Hanna GLAS	16/04/93	DF		30	90		120		Sundsvalls DFF
14	Julia WAHLBERG	29/09/95	MF		9	90	17	7		Tölö IF
15	Fridolina ROLFÖ	24/11/93	FW	69	81	45*		16		Jitex BK
16	Lina HURTIG	05/09/95	MF	21	20	90	73	113		Umeå IK
17	Saga FREDRIKSSON	03/10/94	DF							FC Malmö
18	Mimmi LÖFWENIUS	16/02/94	FW	9		71				Kopparbergs/Göteborg FC

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

2 goals were own goals by Serbia's Jasna Djordjević and Denmark's Stine Ballisager

## Sweden v England



- Classic 4-4-2 with two lines of four and a striking partnership
- Compact, disciplined deep defending; quick attack-to-defence transitions
- Tall, athletic players with physical presence and high level of fitness
- Two hard-working forwards – 10 Rubensson with exceptional speed, technique, finishing
- 8 Diaz the skilful link between midfield and attack
- Tactically aware with good use of space and ability to close spaces for opponents
- Efficient in defence and attack: high ratio of goals to scoring chances



# TURKEY



## COACH

Taygun ERDEM  
02/10/1967



We started games nervously and made errors. Lessons will be learned. We were too enthusiastic at times and this affected our concentration, especially in and around the box. We need to work more on attacking and defending principles. I congratulated my players from the heart because they fought ambitiously till the last minute and never gave up. The tournament was a major milestone for us and I hope that girls will knock on doors of sports clubs and ask for opportunities to play football.

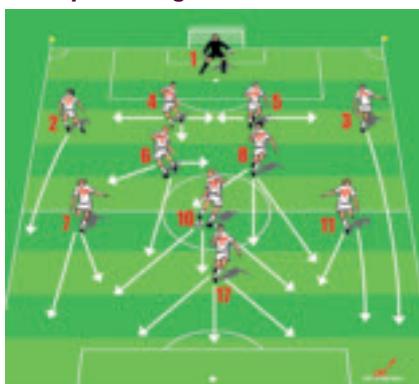


No	Player	Born	Pos	POR	DEN	ROM	G	Club
1	Selda AKGÖZ	09/06/93	GK	90	90	90		Fomget Gençlik
2	Eda KARATAŞ	15/06/95	DF	90	90	90		Marmara Üniv. Spor
3	DİDEM Karagenç	16/10/93	DF	90	90	90		Gazi Univ. Kizilcahamam
4	Emine DEMİR	11/11/93	DF	90	90	90		Adana İdmanyurduspor
5	Esla Sibel TEZKAN	23/02/93	DF	90	90	90		Bayer 04 Leverkusen
6	Leyla GÜNGÖR	29/05/93	MF	90	90	90		Limhamn Bunkeflo
7	FATOŞ Yıldırım	28/03/94	MF	89	8	45*		Trabzon İdmanocagi
8	Melisa Dilber ERTÜRK	09/08/93	MF	56	90			Tennessee University
9	MERVE Aladag	01/04/93	FW		15	45+		Ataşehir Belediyespor
10	SEVGİ Çınar	15/01/94	FW	90		45+		Konak Belediyespor
11	ELIF Deniz	25/03/93	MF	70	75	17		Karadeniz Ereğli SK
12	Elmira Gökçem CAN	12/02/93	GK					Karadeniz Ereğli SK
13	Yaşam GÖKSU	25/09/95	DF		82	90		Konak Belediyespor
14	EDA DURAN	25/04/95	DF	1	68	73		Derince Belediyespor
15	GÜLBİN HİZ	11/06/94	MF					Derince Belediyespor
16	Ebru TOPÇU	27/08/96	FW	20	22	90		Karadeniz Ereğli SK
17	Filiz İŞKIRIK	20/08/93	FW	90	90	45*		Lüleburgaz 39
18	Emine Ecem ESEN	03/05/94	MF	34				Çamlicaspor

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

Turkey's goal was an own goal by Romania's Andreea Corduneanu

## Turkey v Portugal



- 4-2-3-1 with changes of personnel within rigid structure
- Deep defending with individual marking in defensive third
- Extensive use of direct passing to lone striker, especially by goalkeeper
- Counterattacking style with striker 17 Işıkirkirik strong, fast and dangerous
- Quick attack-to-defence transitions with wingers dropping into midfield
- Pressure within own half; central defender 4 Demir good ball-winner, reader of the game
- Strong team ethic with great commitment in tackling

# RESULTS

## GROUP A

### 2 July 2012

Turkey – Portugal 0-0

**Attendance:** 375 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 21.30 (20.30 CET)

**Yellow card:** Bárbara Santos 68 (Portugal)

**Referee:** Anastasia Pustovoitova (Russia) / **Assistants:** Hyttinen, Vidova /

**Fourth official:** Frappart

Denmark – Romania 1-0 (0-0)

1-0 Christina Bovbjerg 90+2

**Attendance:** 77 at Titanic Sport Complex; KO 21.30

**Yellow card:** Herczeg 31 (Romania)

**Referee:** Knarik Grigoryan (Armenia) / O'Neill, Wojs / Hussein

### 5 July 2012

Turkey – Denmark 0-1 (0-0)

0-1 Anna Fisker 50

**Attendance:** 263 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 19.30

**Yellow card:** Ballisager 45 (Denmark)

**Referee:** Simona Ghisletta (Switzerland) / Raudzina, Prammer / Pustovoitova

Portugal – Romania 1-0 (1-0)

1-0 Micas 43

**Attendance:** 57 at World of Wonders; KO 21.30

**Yellow cards:** Tatiana Pinto 5 (Portugal) / Gorea 85 (Romania)

**Referee:** Zuzana Kováčová (Slovakia) / Karagiorgi, Cheron / Grigoryan

### 8 July 2012

Romania – Turkey 1-1 (0-0)

1-0 Mara Batea 51, 1-1 Andreea Corduneanu 78 own goal

**Attendance:** 462 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 21.30

**Yellow card:** Göksu 22 (Turkey)

**Referee:** Riem Hussein (Germany) / Karagiorgi, Vidova / Ghisletta

Portugal – Denmark 0-1 (0-0)

0-1 Camilla Andersen 75 pen

**Attendance:** 180 at World of Wonders; KO 21.30

**Yellow cards:** Tatiana Pinto 23, Filipa Rodrigues 71, Mónica Mendes 75 (Portugal)

**Referee:** Stéphanie Frappart (France) / O'Neill, Wojs / Kováčová

## GROUP B

### 2 July 2012

England – Sweden 0-1 (0-1)

0-1 Elin Rubensson 31 pen.

**Attendance:** 203 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 19.30

**Yellow cards:** Matthews 31 (England) / Rubensson 66 (Sweden)

**Referee:** Simona Ghisletta (Switzerland) / Prammer, Karagiorgi / Tosun

Spain – Serbia 3-0 (1-0)

1-0 Raquel Pinel 6, 2-0 Ivana Andrés 71, 3-0 Nagore Calderón 88

**Attendance:** 102 at World of Wonders; KO 21.30

**Yellow card:** Virginia Torrecilla 41 (Spain)

**Referee:** Zuzana Kováčová (Slovakia) / Cheron, Raudzina / Gökçek

### 5 July 2012

Spain – England 4-0 (3-0)

1-0 Alexia Putellas 17, 2-0 Amanda Sampedro 29, 3-0 Virginia Torrecilla 45,

4-0 Virginia Torrecilla 69

**Attendance:** 134 at Titanic Sport Complex; KO 21.30

**Yellow card:** Ince 43 (England)

**Referee:** Stéphanie Frappart (France) / Wojs, Hyttinen / Tosun

Serbia – Sweden 1-5 (0-2)

0-1 Elin Rubensson 31, 0-2 Pauline Hammarlund 38, 0-3 Elin Rubensson 62,

1-3 Marija Ilić 65, 1-4 Jasna Djordjević 70 own goal, 1-5 Malin Diaz 90+3

**Attendance:** 169 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 21.30

**Red card:** Stojaković 76 (Serbia)

**Referee:** Riem Hussein (Germany) / Vidova, O'Neill / Gökçek

### 8 July 2012

Serbia – England 0-0

**Attendance:** 87 at Titanic Sport Complex; KO 19.30

**Yellow cards:** None

**Referee:** Anastasia Pustovoitova (Russia) / Prammer, Hyttinen / Tosun

Sweden – Spain 0-0

**Attendance:** 248 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 19.30

**Yellow card:** Löfwenius 55 (Sweden)

**Referee:** Knarik Grigoryan (Armenia) / Raudzina, Cheron / Gökçek

## GROUP STANDINGS

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Denmark	3	3	0	0	3	0	9
2	Portugal	3	1	1	1	1	1	4
3	Turkey	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
4	Romania	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

## GROUP STANDINGS

Pos	Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1	Spain	3	2	1	0	7	0	7
2	Sweden	3	2	1	0	6	1	7
3	England	3	0	1	2	0	5	1
4	Serbia	3	0	1	2	1	8	1

**SEMI-FINALS**
**11 July 2012**

Denmark – Sweden 1-3 (0-2)

0-1 Elin Rubensson 6, 0-2 Elin Rubensson 23, 1-2 Karoline Smidt Nielsen 61, 1-3 Stine Ballisager Pedersen 90 own goal

**Attendance:** 215 at World of Wonders; KO 21.00

**Yellow cards:** None

**Referee:** Anastasia Pustovoitova (Russia) / Wojs, Cheron / Frappart

Spain – Portugal 1-0 (0-0)

1-0 Raquel Pinel 87

**Attendance:** 300 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 21.00

**Yellow cards:** Rodríguez 77, Sampedro 90+4 (Spain) / Mónica Mendes 16, Matilde Fidalgo 45+2 (Portugal)

**Referee:** Riem Hussein (Germany) / O'Neill, Karagiorgi / Grigoryan

**TOP SCORERS**

Goals	Player	Country
5	Elin RUBENSSON	Sweden
2	Malin DIAZ	Sweden
	Raquel PINEL	Spain
	Virginia TORRECILLA	Spain

**FAIR PLAY RANKING**

Pos	Team	Score	Matches played
1	Sweden	8.992	5
2	Denmark	8.919	4
3	England	8.702	3
4	Spain	8.514	5
5	Serbia	8.476	3
6	Turkey	8.226	3
7	Romania	7.809	3
8	Portugal	7.669	4

**FINAL**
**14 July 2012**

Sweden – Spain 1-0 after extra time

1-0 Malin Diaz 108

**Sweden:** Jessica Höglander; Hanna Glas, Amanda Ilestedt (captain), Jennie Nordin, Magdalena Ericsson; Malin Diaz, Petra Andersson, Therese Boström (Jonna Andersson 34), Lina Hurtig (Julia Wahlberg 113); Pauline Hammarlund (Fridolina Rolfö 104), Elin Rubensson.

**Spain:** Dolores "Lola" Gallardo; Idaira Rodriguez, Ivana Andrés, Andrea Pereira, Raquel Carreño; Nagore Calderón, Virginia Torrecilla, Gema Gili (Ana Troyano 84), Alexia Putellas (Nelly Maestro 83); Amanda Sampedro, Raquel Pinel (Marina García 89).

**Attendance:** 752 at Mardan Sport Complex; KO 21.00

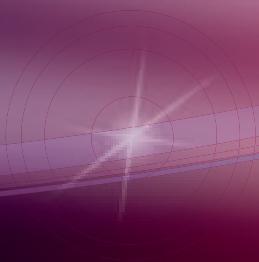
**Yellow card:** Sampedro 83 (Spain)

**Referee:** Stéphanie Frappart (France) / O'Neill; Cheron / Pustovoitova

**MATCH OFFICIALS**

Name	Country	Date of birth	FIFA
<b>Referees</b>			
Stéphanie FRAPPART	France	14/12/1983	2010
Simona GHISLETTA	Switzerland	11/06/1976	2010
Knarik GRIGORYAN	Armenia	15/05/1978	2003
Riem HUSSEIN	Germany	26/07/1980	2009
Zuzana KOVÁČOVÁ	Slovakia	26/04/1979	2006
Anastasia PUSTOVOITOVA	Russia	10/02/1981	2009
<b>Assistant referees</b>			
Anne CHERON	Belgium	18/06/1974	2008
Tiina HYTTINEN	Finland	28/12/1978	2003
Niki KARAGIORGİ	Cyprus	18/02/1982	2008
Michelle O'NEILL	Rep. of Ireland	20/07/1978	2011
Agnes PRAMMER	Austria	17/11/1977	2006
Viola RAUDZINA	Latvia	15/05/1985	2008
Gergana VIDOVA	Bulgaria	18/12/1977	2000
Katarzyna WOJS	Poland	28/01/1984	2011
<b>Fourth officials</b>			
Dilan GÖKÇEK	Turkey	04/11/1976	2005
Halil TUBA TOSUN	Turkey	10/09/1970	2000





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