



Union des associations européennes de football



Media Release

Date: 09/01/04

Communiqué aux médias

No. 001

Medien-Mitteilung

Europe's top 50 players lead UEFA's Jubilee coverage

uefa.com launches dedicated Jubilee content

With just under 6,750,000 votes cast, the search for the 50 best European players of the past 50 years is complete and results are set to be revealed as part of uefa.com's coverage of UEFA's Golden Jubilee year in 2004.

UEFA's official website launched its Jubilee coverage today with an "On This Day" section providing a run-down on the major events that have taken place in European football on each day over the past 50 years, as well as the first of its 52 "National Association Weeks".

The National Association Weeks will run alphabetically, starting with Albania, and include a message from each FA's president, a look at the history of football in that country, a profile of its "Golden Player" and an interview with a leading figure discussing the way forward for football in that country.

"The UEFA website is an ideal way to convey information about each of our member countries to the broadest possible public, throughout Europe and beyond," said UEFA CEO Lars-Christer Olsson. "It's also an excellent way of involving each and every one of these member countries in helping us mark 2004 as a milestone date in UEFA's history."

Results of the 50-50 vote will start, with Player No50, on Monday 19 January and culminate in April with the announcement of the player voted by football fans all over the world as the No1 European player of the past 50 years.

A total of 134,796 people cast 50 votes each in the poll, and the final 50 contains at least eight players from each decade of UEFA's existence, with all playing positions and a wide variety of countries represented.

"We had prepared the 50-50 vote very carefully to make it as representative as possible," commented UEFA's Jubilee Coordinator, Keith Cooper, "and it's very gratifying to see that the results reflect this.

"We're sure that the player who has finished in top spot will be generally acclaimed, not only now but in the years to come, as the truly outstanding player of the past 50 years in Europe."