EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS - 2019/20 SEASON
MATCH PRESS KITS

National Football Stadium - Belfast
Thursday 21 March 2019
20.45CET (19.45 local time)
Group C - Matchday 1

Northern Ireland

Estonia

Last updated 01/06/2020 13:21CET

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Head coach
Legend

2
3
Head coach

Michael O'Neill

Date of birth: 5 July 1969
Nationality: Northern Irish
Playing career: Coleraine, Newcastle, Dundee United, Hibernian, Coventry, Aberdeen (loan), Reading (loan), Wigan, Saint Johnstone, Portland Timbers, Clydebank, Glentoran, Ayr United
Coaching career: Brechin City, Shamrock Rovers, Northern Ireland

• A midfielder and forward during a 20-year playing career, O'Neill spent the bulk of his time in Scotland, most notably with Dundee United and Hibernian. Enjoyed late success when winning a Northern Irish league and League Cup double with Glentoran in 2002/03.

• Made 31 appearances for his country, scoring four goals, two of which came in a memorable 5-3 victory against Austria during EURO ’96 qualifying.

• Moved into coaching as assistant manager of Scottish club Cowdenbeath in 2005 before taking the reins at Brechin in March 2006. Was named coach of Shamrock Rovers in the Republic of Ireland in December 2008, guiding the Hoops to a second-place finish in his debut season before clinching their first title since 1994 in 2010.

• Made history as Rovers became the first Irish side to qualify for the group stage of a European competition, beating Partizan in the 2011/12 UEFA Europa League play-offs. Also led the Hoops to a second successive domestic championship in 2011.

• Appointed coach of his country in December 2011 and helped Northern Ireland record several notable results in 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifying, including a 1-1 draw in Portugal and a home win against Russia. Even better was to come as O'Neill steered his charges to UEFA EURO 2016, their first UEFA European Championship appearance, taking Northern Ireland to the last 16 at the finals in France, and agreed a new contract despite losing out to Switzerland in the 2018 World Cup play-offs.

Martin Reim

Date of birth: 14 May 1971
Nationality: Estonian
Playing career: Tallinna Lõvid, Tallinna Sport, Norma Tallinn, Flora (twice), Lelle, KTP Kotka, Tervis Pärnu, Viimsi
Coaching career: Flora, Estonia U18, Estonia U21, Estonia U23, Estonia

• Reim was a defensive midfielder whose international career spanned 17 years after his debut for the newly-independent nation in June 1992 against Slovenia, a 1-1 draw. He won his 157th cap (then a European record) in June 2009, six months after ending club career.

• Took first steps in the game alongside goalkeeper Mart Poom. Began career in Soviet Estonia's top division aged 16, finishing top scorer in 1990 while playing for Norma.

• Spent bulk of his club career (a combined 16 years) in two stints at Flora, retiring with seven titles and three Estonian Cups to his name. He also reached the Finnish Cup final during his only overseas spell, 18 months at KTP Kotka.

• Returned to Flora as head coach in December 2009, having served as assistant to Janno Kivisild in the latter part of his playing career; won the Estonian title in 2010 and 2011. Also lifted the Estonian Cup in 2011, but left in October 2012 and established a football academy in Tallinn.

• Subsequently coached Estonia at various levels – youth, U21s and U23s – with some success. Was named successor to Magnus Pehrsson as senior Estonia coach on 14 September 2016 in the wake of a 5-0 defeat away to Bosnia and Herzegovina in the first match of 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying and, though Estonia ultimately finished fourth in their section, did oversee a famous friendly 3-0 win against Croatia in March 2017.
:: Previous meetings

Goals for/against: Goal totals include the outcome of disciplinary decisions (e.g. match forfeits when a 3-0 result is determined). Goals totals do not include goals scored during a penalty shoot-out after a tie ended in a draw

:: Squad list

Qual.: Total European Qualifiers appearances/goals for UEFA EURO 2020 only.
FT: Total UEFA EURO 2020 appearances/goals in final tournament only.
Overall: Total international appearances/goals.
DoB: Date of birth
Age: Based on the date press kit was last updated
D: Disciplinary (*: misses next match if booked, S: suspended)

:: Team facts

EURO finals: The UEFA European Championship was a four-team event in 1960, 1964, 1968, 1972 and 1976 (when the preliminary round and quarter-finals were considered part of qualifying).

From 1980 it was expanded to an eight-team finals and remained in that format in 1984, 1988 and 1992 until 1996, when the 16-team format was adopted. UEFA EURO 2016 was the first tournament to be played as a 24-team finals.

Records of inactive countries

A number of UEFA associations have been affected by dissolution or splits of member associations. For statistical purposes, the records of these inactive countries have been allocated elsewhere: therefore, all Soviet Union matches are awarded to Russia; all West Germany – but not East Germany – matches are awarded to Germany; all Yugoslavia and Serbia & Montenegro matches are awarded to Serbia; all Czechoslovakia matches are allocated to both the Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Abandoned/forfeited matches

For statistical purposes, when a match has been started and then abandoned but later forfeited, the result on the pitch at the time of abandonment is counted. Matches that never started and were either cancelled or forfeited are not included in the overall statistics.

Competitions

Other abbreviations

(aet): After extra time
No.: Number
ag: Match decided on away goals
agg: Aggregate
AP: Appearances
Comp.: Competition
D: Drawn
DoB: Date of birth
ET: Extra Time
GA: Goals against
GF: Goals for
gg: Match decided by golden goal
L: Lost
Nat.: Nationality

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