Wales
Cardiff City Stadium - Cardiff
Sunday 24 March 2019 - 15.00CET
Group E - Matchday 2

Slovakia

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EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Head coach
Legend

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3
Head coach

Ryan Giggs

Date of birth: 29 November 1973  
Nationality: Welsh  
Playing career: Manchester United  
Coaching career: Manchester United (caretaker), Manchester United (assistant), Wales

• Manchester United's most successful ever player, Cardiff-born Giggs signed for the club on his 14th birthday and made his first-team debut in March 1991 at 17. He was capped at the same age, becoming Wales' youngest senior international.

• An extravagantly gifted left-winger hailed at Old Trafford and beyond as the 'new George Best', Giggs was a United regular in his late teens and a champion of England before he reached 20 – the first of a record-breaking 13 English Premier League titles he would win, all under Sir Alex Ferguson, during 24 years as a first-teamer. He landed domestic doubles in 1993/94 and 1995/96 and a famous treble in 1998/99, when United added the UEFA Champions League by dramatically defeating Bayern München in the final at the Camp Nou.

• He broke Sir Bobby Charlton's club record of 758 appearances when he came on as a substitute in the victorious 2008 UEFA Champions League final against Chelsea in Moscow and would end his United career with 963 games and 168 goals. In all he helped United win 25 major trophies and was voted both PFA Player of the Year and BBC Sports Personality of the Year in 2009.

• He played 64 times for Wales, scoring 12 goals, before retiring from international football in 2007 after three years as captain. Like Northern Ireland's Best, Giggs was never able to parade his talent at a major tournament.

• Joined the coaching staff of Ferguson's replacement David Moyes while still active as a player during 2013/14 and assumed player-caretaker duties for the final four games of the campaign after Moyes' sacking. He announced his retirement from playing in May 2014 to take up a position as assistant to new manager Louis van Gaal and finally left Old Trafford two years later, appointed as Wales coach in January 2018 to succeed Chris Coleman.

Pavel Hapal

Date of birth: 27 July 1969  
Nationality: Czech  
Playing career: Sigma Olomouc (four times), Dukla Praha, Bayer Leverkusen, Tenerife, Sparta Praha, České Budějovice, Jakubčovice  
Coaching career: Opava, Zlín, Banik Ostrava, Nitra, Mladá Boleslav, Žilina, Zagłębie Lubin, Senica, Slovakia Under-21, Sparta Praha, Slovakia

• A versatile attacking midfielder often deployed on the right flank, Hapal represented both Czechoslovakia and the Czech Republic in the early 1990s, winning a total of 31 senior international caps and scoring one goal.

• Born 50km from Olomouc, Hapal started his playing career with Sigma – the first of four spells at the club – and helped them reach the 1991/92 UEFA Cup quarter-finals. His three goals in a memorable 6-2 aggregate win against Hamburg caught the eye of Bundesliga scouts and prompted a move to Leverkusen, where he remained for three years, winning the DFB-Pokal in 1992/93.

• Pursued his career in the Spanish Liga with Tenerife, where he also spent three seasons, before returning to his Czech homeland in 1998 and hanging up his boots four years later.

• Went straight into coaching, serving a succession of Czech clubs before making his name across the border in Slovakia – firstly by leading Nitra to a third-placed finish in 2007/08, then by steering Žilina to a record-equalling fifth Slovakian title in 2009/10, his debut season.

• After a two-year spell at Polish side Zagłębie Lubin and a brief stint back in Slovakia with Senica, he was appointed as coach of Slovakia's Under-21 side. It proved a successful alliance as he led the team to the European finals in Poland, where they were unfortunate to be eliminated in the group stage despite winning two of their three matches. Sparta Praha appointed him in March 2018 but he left in the summer and took charge of the senior Slovakia side in October following Ján Kozák's departure.
Legend

:: 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
pens: Penalties
og: Own goal
P: Penalty
Pl: Matches played
Pos.: Position
Pts: Points
R: Sent off (straight red card)
Res.: Result
sg: Match decided by silver goal
t: Match decided by toss of a coin
W: Won
Y: Booked
Y/R: Sent off (two yellow cards)
N/A: Not applicable

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