EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Cyprus
GSP - Nicosia
Sunday 24 March 2019 - 20:45CET
Group I - Matchday 2

Belgium

Last updated 26/06/2019 03:21CET

Head coach
Legend
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Head coach

Ran Ben Shimon

Date of birth: 28 November 1970
Nationality: Israeli
Playing career: Maccabi Petach-Tikva, Hapoel Haifa, Hapoel Petach-Tikva, Bnei Yehuda Tel-Aviv
Coaching career: Hapoel Haifa, Hapoel Kiryat Shmona (twice), Maccabi Tel-Aviv, AEK Larnaca, Hapoel Tel-Aviv, Maccabi Petach-Tikva, Beitar Jerusalem, Ashdod, Cyprus

• Capped 34 times as a defender for Israel, Ben Shimon spent much of his career with home-town clubs Maccabi Petach-Tikva and Hapoel Petach-Tikva, but was perhaps in his prime during a six-year spell at Hapoel Haifa, during which he won the 1998/99 Israeli championship – the club's first league title.
• After hanging up his boots in 2003 following a stint at Bnei Yehuda, Ben Shimon was in charge of Maccabi Tel-Aviv's youth teams, taking his first senior jobs in the second tier with Hapoel Haifa and then Kiryat Shmona, whom he led to promotion in his first campaign at the helm.
• Briefly in the Maccabi Tel-Aviv hot seat in 2008, he guided Kiryat Shmona to another promotion after rejoining them in 2009, then masterminded their shock title success of 2011/12. He moved abroad for the first time in 2012 to coach Cypriot club AEK Larnaca, earning a third-placed finish in his sole season in command.
• Returning to Israel in 2013, he subsequently held the reins at Hapoel Tel-Aviv, Maccabi Petach-Tikva, Beitar Jerusalem and – in 2016/17 – Ashdod.
• Ben Shimon accepted the Cyprus post in July 2017, filling the void left by Christakis Christoforou's departure, and the following month oversaw a memorable 3-2 home win against Bosnia and Herzegovina in 2018 FIFA World Cup qualifying.

Roberto Martínez

Date of birth: 13 July 1973
Nationality: Spanish
Playing career: Real Zaragoza, Balaguer, Wigan, Motherwell, Walsall, Swansea, Chester City
Coaching career: Swansea, Wigan, Everton, Belgium

• Born in Catalonia, Martínez started out at youth level with home-town club Balaguer before joining Zaragoza aged 16. The bulk of his three years there were spent in the youth and B teams, with a solitary appearance for the senior side before he returned to Balaguer in 1994, also running the club's football school.
• Moved to England and Wigan in 1995, forming the 'Three Amigos' with fellow Spaniards Jesús Seba and Isidro Díaz; over the next six years, helped the club win the third division title in 1997 and the Football League trophy two years later. A year with both Motherwell and Walsall preceded a lengthier spell at Swansea between 2003 and 2006, Martínez helping the club to promotion to the third tier. After a season with Chester, he returned to south Wales in 2007, initially as player-manager before quickly hanging up his boots.
• Guided Swansea to the League One championship in 2008 before leaving for Premier League Wigan the following year. Inspired an unlikely escape from relegation in 2011/12 and landed the Latics' first major trophy with victory against Manchester City FC in the FA Cup final 12 months later – although three days after that landmark triumph, Wigan were relegated.
• Martínez remained a man in demand and was appointed Everton manager in June 2013, steering the club to fifth place with their record Premier League points tally in his first term. Everton reached the 2014/15 UEFA Europa League round of 16 and both domestic cup semi-finals in the next campaign, but indifferent league form meant Martínez was dismissed in May 2016.
• Appointed Belgium coach three months later in the wake of Marc Wilmots' departure and led the side to the semi-finals of the 2018 FIFA World Cup, Belgium ultimately finishing third in Russia – their highest ever placing.
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
Pld: 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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