Wales

Cardiff City Stadium - Cardiff
Friday 6 September 2019 - 20:45CET
Group E - Matchday 5

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Last updated 02/09/2019 14:20CET

Head coach  2
Legend  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.

Nikola Jurčević

Date of birth: 14 September 1966  
Nationality: Croatian  
Playing career: Dinamo Zagreb, NK Zagreb (twice), Antwerp, Salzburg (twice), Freiburg  
Coaching career: NK Zagreb, Dinamo Zagreb (twice), Salzburg, Slaven Belupo, Croatia (assistant), Lokomotiv Moskva (assistant), Beşiktaş (assistant), West Ham (assistant), Azerbaijan

• A youth player at home-town club Dinamo Zagreb, Jurčević graduated to the senior set-up but struggled to find opportunities and moved across the city to NK Zagreb in 1986, spending two seasons with the club. After a season in Belgium with Antwerp, where he made a single league appearance, Jurčević returned to NK Zagreb for another two-year stint.

• Tried his luck abroad again in 1991, moving to Austria to join Salzburg; won two Bundesliga titles with the club and finished joint top scorer in the league with 14 goals in 1993/94, the season Salzburg also reached the UEFA Cup final. Went on to spend two years across the border in Germany with Freiburg before hanging up his boots in 1999 having returned to Salzburg.

• Won 19 caps for Croatia between 1990 and 1996, scoring twice; made three appearances at EURO '96.

• Kicked off his coaching career at NK Zagreb in 2002, moving on to Dinamo the following year and winning the Croatian Cup in 2003/04. After short spells at Salzburg and Slaven Belupo, Jurčević spent six years as assistant to former team-mate Slaven Bilić with the Croatia national team.

• Also worked alongside Bilić at Lokomotiv Moskva, Beşiktaş and West Ham before once more striking out on his own in March 2018, when he was appointed head coach of Dinamo again – a position he held for just two months. Resurfaced in Azerbaijan, taking charge of the national side in February 2019.
:: 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.

Competition

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

cens: 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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