EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Slovenia
Stadion Stožice - Ljubljana
Friday 6 September 2019 - 20:45CET
Group G - Matchday 5

Poland

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EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS

Head coach
Legend

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3
Head coach

Matjaž Kek

Date of birth: 9 September 1961  
Nationality: Slovenian  
Playing career: Maribor (twice), Spittal/Drau, Grazer AK  
Coaching career: Maribor, Slovenia (youth), Slovenia (twice), Al-Ittihad, Rijeka

• Born in Maribor, he began a long affiliation with the local club as a player. Featured from 1979 to 1984 in the Yugoslavian Federal League before a decade in Austria's lower leagues with Spittal/Drau and Grazer AK – earning one cap for Slovenia in 1992 while with the latter. Returned home to win a hat-trick of Slovenian titles at Maribor between 1997 and 1999 as well as two national cups.

• Turned to coaching immediately after hanging up his boots and was on the staff for four further Maribor championship wins before taking charge himself for the 2003/04 season.

• Appointed coach of Slovenia's Under-15 and U16 teams in 2006 before the call came to replace senior head coach Branko Oblak midway through UEFA EURO 2008 qualifying campaign in January 2007.

• Endured difficult start to reign with youthful team but came good to eventually steer Slovenia to 2010 FIFA World Cup finals after a famous away-goals victory over Russia in the play-offs. Oversaw creditable performances in South Africa although Slovenia failed to progress from group stage.

• Stepped down after failure to reach UEFA EURO 2012, going on to have a brief spell in Saudi Arabia with Al-Ittihad before resurfacing at Rijeka in February 2013. Kek proved a huge success in Croatia, winning the club's first title in 2016/17 when Rijeka completed the double by claiming the Croatian Cup for the second time in his reign; also took the club into the UEFA Europa League group stage in 2013/14 and 2014/15. Stepped down in October 2018 and reappointed as Slovenia coach the following month.

Jerzy Brzęczek

Date of birth: 18 March 1971  
Nationality: Polish  
Playing career: Olimpia Truskolasy (youth), Raków Częstochowa (youth), Olimpia Poznań, Lech Poznań, Górnik Zabrze, GKS Katowice, Tirol Innsbruck, LASK Linz, Maccabi Haifa, Tirol Innsbruck, Sturm Graz, FC Kärnten, Wacker Tirol, Górnik Zabrze, Polonia Bytom  
Coaching career: Raków Częstochowa, Lechia Gdańsk, GKS Katowice, Wisła Płock, Poland

• Jerzy Brzęczek enjoyed a prolonged and eventful career as a midfielder. Known for his leadership skills, he was captain of most of the teams he played for. He is the uncle and mentor of Jakub Błaszczykowski, Poland's UEFA EURO 2012 captain who won his 100th cap at the 2018 FIFA World Cup.

• Brzęczek spent several years in Austria with a number of clubs, winning back-to-back Bundesliga titles with Tirol Innsbruck, the second in 2001/02 under Joachim Löw, to go with the 1992/93 Polish title he claimed with Lech Poznań. He amassed more than 500 league appearances in Poland, Austria and Israel.

• Was a key player and captain of the Poland side that won Olympic silver at the 1992 Games in Barcelona, losing narrowly to hosts Spain in the final (2-3) at the conclusion of a captivating, high-scoring campaign.

• Played 42 games for the senior Polish national team, some as captain, but did not take part in any major tournaments. Brzęczek scored four international goals, including one against Brazil in a friendly and one against England at Wembley (1-3) in a UEFA EURO 2000 qualifier.

• Started coaching in 2010 at Raków Częstochowa, where he remained for four years before experiencing his first taste of the Polish top flight with Lechia Gdańsk. He returned to the second division to coach GKS Katowice for two years before his first full season in the Ekstraklasa ended with a creditable fifth-place finish in charge of Wisła Płock – an achievement deemed worthy of promotion to the post of Poland coach in July 2018 to succeed Adam Nawalka.
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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