

EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS - 2019/20 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Azerbaijan

Bakcell Arena - Baku
Monday 9 September 2019
18.00CET (20.00 local time)
Group E - Matchday 6



Croatia

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EUROPEAN QUALIFIERS OFFICIAL SPONSORS



Head coach

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Legend

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Head coach

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.

Zlatko Dalić

Date of birth: 26 October 1966

Nationality: Croatian

Playing career: Hajduk Split (twice), Budućnost Titograd, Velež, Varteks (twice)

Coaching career: Varteks, Rijeka, Dinamo Tirana, Slaven Belupo (twice), al-Faisaly, al-Hilal, al-Ain, Croatia

- A midfielder, he spent the best years of his playing career at Varteks, scoring 13 goals in 108 matches from 1992–96.
- Played for Varteks in two spells, and after hanging up his boots in 2000, worked simultaneously as the club's assistant coach and sporting director. Took sole command on the field for the first time in 2005.
- Dalić more recently found success in the Middle East with al-Hilal (Saudi Arabia) and al-Ain (United Arab Emirates); in 2016, he led al-Ain to the AFC Champions League final, where they lost to South Korea's Jeonbuk FC over two legs.
- Assistant coach of Croatia under-21s from 2006-11, he returned to the national-team set-up as boss of the senior side on 7 October 2017, stepping in following the departure of Ante Čačić.
- A win away to Ukraine two days after Dalić's appointment earned a 2018 FIFA World Cup play-off place, where Greece were defeated as Croatia reached the finals, prompting Dalić to sign a contract running until 2020. They went on to excel in Russia, reaching the knockout stages for the first time since 1998 courtesy of wins against Nigeria, Argentina and Iceland; Denmark and hosts Russia were beaten on penalties en route to the semi-finals, where England were overcome in extra time, but France proved a step too far in the final.

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

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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