

UEFA NATIONS LEAGUE - 2018/19 SEASON MATCH PRESS KITS



Montenegro

**Gradski Stadion Podgorica -
Podgorica**

Thursday 11 October 2018
20.45CET (20.45 local time)
Group C4 - Matchday 3



Serbia

Last updated 10/10/2018 18:03CET



Head coach

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Legend

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Head coach

Ljubiša Tumbaković

Date of birth: 2 September 1952

Nationality: Serbian

Playing career: Partizan, Vardar (loan), Radnički Sombor (loan)

Coaching career: Radnički Beograd, Obilić, Khaitan, Partizan (youth), Partizan (twice), AEK Athens, Al Nassr, Shandong Luneng, Steel Azin, Wuhan Zall, Montenegro

- Belgrade-born Tumbaković started in the Radnički Beograd academy at the age of ten before moving on to the Partizan youth ranks two years later. He never appeared for the senior Partizan side in a competitive match and most of his professional playing career was spent on loan.
- Tumbaković went on to coach Partizan for nearly a decade in two separate spells, from 1992 to 1999 and 2000 to 2002. He won six league titles and three domestic cups to establish himself as one of the most successful ever Yugoslavian coaches.
- Had a solitary season in charge of AEK Athens either side of his two Partizan stints, leading the capital club to third in the Greek top flight.
- Tumbaković was later at the helm of Chinese sides Shandong Luneng – with whom he won two Super League titles and two domestic cups – and Wuhan Zall, as well as having spells in Saudi Arabia and Iran.
- Appointed Montenegro coach in January 2016 and oversaw a strong start to 2018 FIFA World Cup qualification only for successive defeats against Armenia and Poland to prove crucial, Tumbaković's side missing out on a play-off place after losing their last two fixtures against Denmark and, for a second time, Poland.

Mladen Krstajić

Date of birth: 4 March 1974

Nationality: Serbian

Playing career: Čelik, Senta, Kikinda, Partizan (twice), Werder Bremen, Schalke

Coaching career: Serbia

- A tall, left-footed defender, Krstajić's career began in the youth sector of Bosnian club Čelik from his home town of Zenica. He moved to Serbia in 1992 during the Yugoslav civil war, playing for unheralded Senta and Kikinda before being snapped up in 1996 by Belgrade giants Partizan.
- Rapidly became a Partizan regular, starting out at left-back before moving into central defence. He helped the Black-and-Whites to three championship titles (1995/96, 1996/97, 1998/99) and one national cup (1997/98) during his four-year stay.
- In the summer of 2000 Krstajić moved to Werder Bremen, where he performed with distinction for a further four seasons, climaxing in 2003/04 as he helped the club win the German Bundesliga/DFB Pokal double. He then left for a five-year stint at Schalke, where he was appointed as captain and established himself as one of the Bundesliga's foremost defenders.
- He played 59 senior international matches for his country, from 1999 to 2008, notably featuring as one of the 'Famous Four' alongside Nemanja Vidić, Goran Gavrančić and Ivica Dragutinović in the Serbia and Montenegro defence that qualified for the 2006 FIFA World Cup with the concession of just one goal. He also started all three matches at the finals in Germany.
- He returned to Belgrade to end his career back at Partizan, winning two more titles, before being appointed as the club's sports director. He later helped Serbia qualify for the 2018 World Cup as assistant coach to Slavoljub Muslin before replacing him, initially as caretaker, and leading the side at the finals in Russia, where they were eliminated at the group stage.

Legend

Competitions

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